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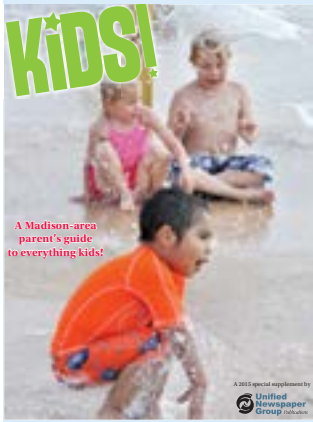
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Holocaust remembrance

LIVING WITH HISTORY

Fitchburg author explores father's role in death camp liberation

MICHAEL LEON
Star correspondent

The letter to his family back home in Appleton left no doubt how American top brass felt about Nazis in World War II.

"I mentioned to Gen. Patton yesterday that while I was awaiting the official entourage I had spoken to a (Nazi) guard, an SS man. . . . The general reprimanded me before about 500 other GIs when I told him that this man was still alive when I left him."

Dated April 13, 1945, and addressed from Alois 'Al' J. Liethen, the officer-in-charge of a U.S. Army Military Intelligence Service (Interrogation Prisoner of War) team, it's just one of many pieces of memorabilia giving a look at the life of a father who died long before his son could fully grasp the enormity of what he had seen at the Buchenwald extermination complex.

Longtime Fitchburg resident Michael Liethen is writing a book about the service to humanity by his father, Al Liethen, and the Allied forces.

The elder Liethen is prominently featured as the interpreter and guide for Gens. Eisenhower, Bradley, Patton and his own commanding officer, Gen. "Bulldog" Walker of the Ohrdruf sub-camp (of Buchenwald), shortly after the liberation of the extermination factory, Buchenwald, 70 years ago this month.

The trained German linguist had interviewed both survivors and Nazis at the camps to find out what had happened.

Al Liethen, who spent about a year in Europe, is featured in an iconic 1945 photo with those generals – a total of 21 stars at once – that is on display at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The subject matter of the younger Liethen's book, "World War II and the Holocaust," is expansive and horrid, and his commitment to precision is clear.

"I am careful not to engage in hagiography (biographical or historical accounts of subjects as possessing saintly qualities)," explained Liethen, a retired attorney. "Objective and critical research are imperative."

Michael, a former director of UW-Madison's Office of Legal Services who later went into private corporate consulting, lost his father in 1961 to a heart attack at age 53 and "didn't know much" about Al's service growing up.

"He alluded, I think, when I was 17, to experiences that he had, but they really did not make much of an impression on me," Michael admitted. "I was too full of myself at 17."

As the 70th anniversary of annihilation camp liberations are



Photos by Don Kosterman

Michael Liethen explains hard-copy research of intelligence reports and documents in a bookshelf at his home March 31. His late father, Al Liethen, was an interpreter and guide for American generals after the liberation of the Buchenwald death factory.

'I researched the history like a lawyer establishing a case.'

Michael Liethen

commemorated around the world this winter and spring, he's compiling his research to try to complete the picture of Al. No historical scholarship can do justice to the horror of the Nazi extermination camp systems, but Liethen's commitment to careful research has produced a large body of original work.

The liberation of the Buchenwald system near Weimar in east-central Germany is the site of the first worldwide reporting disseminated by the U.S. Army Signal Corps and Office of Strategic Services of the Nazis' "final solution."

As the World War II generation passes, voluminous oral and other historical treatments mark the attempted state-sponsored, systematic annihilation of European Jews, gays, Jehovah's Witnesses, Roma and Sinti (Gypsies) and others held



Michael shows letters sent by his father, Al, through Victory Mail, often used by overseas troops and their families. However, most of the mail Al sent did not go through V-Mail because of security concerns.

in disfavor by the totalitarian Nazis, collaborators and bystanders.

Wrote Al Liethen in his April 13, 1945, letter about the liberation: "One look at their faces since they have been liberated and you will get a worms eye view of what they went through; One minute in this camp

Turn to **Holocaust**/Page 28

Spring election

Arnold elected mayor

Unofficial results show close election, council incumbents prevail

SCOTT GIRARD
Unified Newspaper Group

City of Fitchburg voters chose a new direction for the top leadership of the city, but also voted to keep incumbent alders on the Common Council.

Preliminary results from the April 7 election show Ald. Steve Arnold (Dist. 4), who has been on the council for 10 years, beat incumbent mayor Shawn Pfaff for the mayoral office. Arnold received 2,517 votes to Pfaff's 2,445, according to numbers from the City of Fitchburg clerk's office. As of the Star's Wednesday deadline, there were 67 absentee ballots outstanding, not enough to change the outcome.

The four incumbent alders facing challengers in the election also prevailed.

The election results are expected to become official Monday, April 13.

Pfaff would have until Thursday, April 16, to file for a recount if he wanted. If the difference between the candidates, which currently is at 1.5 percent, were less than .5 percent, he would not have to pay any fee. Otherwise, he would have to pay \$5 per ward, or \$95.

"I haven't ruled it out, but I haven't ruled it in yet either," Pfaff said.

Arnold said Tuesday night after the unofficial

Turn to **Election**/Page 11



Arnold



Pfaff



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Fiery determination

Fitchburg hires Julie Griessmeyer as its first female full-time firefighter

JACOB BIELANSKI
Unified Newspaper Group

It was a bike ride that catalyzed Julie Griessmeyer's career change.

In 2012, the Vanderbilt biology graduate and Indiana native unexpectedly lost her job in Madison. In the wake of this, she wound up with a bicycling group that included Laura Laurenzi, the Madison Fire Department's assistant chief.

Laurenzi, who has been with the department for 25 years, was hired shortly after the first "wave" of female firefighters came to the area. It was at a dinner after the bike ride that Laurenzi recalls Griessmeyer discussing plans to return to school for a nutrition-related degree.

"She didn't really sound like she had her heart in it," Laurenzi said. "I said, 'so why don't you consider a career in the fire

'You have to tread lightly sometimes - I think sometimes more so from the men's perspective with me around.'

*Julie Griessmeyer,
Fitchburg Fire
Department*

service?"

On March 4, Griessmeyer became the Fitchburg Fire Department's first female full-time firefighter.

"It's exciting," Griessmeyer said. "I don't look at it as any different from my normal tasks, but it is an honor."

According to the National Fire Protection Association, women today comprise less than 4 percent of firefighters nationwide. In

Madison, the first female firefighters did not appear until 1978, four years after the department hired its first black firefighters.

"It can be a bit intimidating," Griessmeyer said of being in an overwhelmingly male field. "You have to tread lightly sometimes - I think sometimes more so from the men's perspective with me around."

Her rise began in 2013, when she became a paid on-call firefighter. During that time, she returned to Madison College to earn Firefighter I and II certificates, as well as an EMT-Basic license. She said her time as an on-call firefighter has made the full-time transition a smooth one.

"The department has been great," Griessmeyer said. "They've accepted me with wide open arms."

In addition to her firefighting training, Griessmeyer is passionate about fitness and said she



Photo by Jacob Bielanski

Julie Griessmeyer poses in the truck bay of Fitchburg's Fire Station number 1. Griessmeyer became the Fitchburg Fire Department's first female full-time firefighter on March 4, after almost two years as a paid on-call firefighter.

"trained with the guys" in high school. In her off time, Griessmeyer takes boot camp classes and teaches fitness at a local gym. However, she said she does not believe that physical fitness should pose a significant barrier for other women looking to enter the department. Laurenzi said a lack of role models in the field makes it harder for women and

young girls to consider fire service a "real occupation."

"It's tough, because most of the females I do know who do it are athletic and fit and work very hard at it," Griessmeyer said. "But I don't think it's the only barrier."

Laurenzi said, however, that it was Griessmeyer's athleticism that stood out to her, as athletes tend to

also work well in a team.

"An athlete makes a good firefighter, because often times they encounter discomfort and have to push through pain and challenge themselves," Laurenzi added.

Griessmeyer and her husband, Clay, also serve as a "Big Couple" through the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

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City eyes TIF for Sub-Zero/Wolf

Tax tool could help \$50 to \$60 mil expansion

JACOB BIELANSKI
Unified Newspaper Group

The City of Fitchburg is considering tax-increment financing to help expand manufacturing facilities at Sub-Zero/Wolf.

The Common Council voted unanimously at its March 24 meeting to consider using TIF, a financing tool used by municipalities to encourage development and improve infrastructure, to help the company expand its North Stoner Prairie Neighborhood facility. If recommended by the company and approved by the state, it would be the fifth such district within the city.

The company plans to make a decision on whether to build in May, according to a presentation given at the March 24 Common Council meeting. A representative of Sub-Zero/Wolf said the company had no public comment on the plan at this time.

The process to create the TIF plan will take a couple of months. Ehler and Associates Inc. will be paid \$14,000 for services related to exploring and submitting to the state a request to create the new tax-increment financing district. The company would receive different sums for completion of

How TIF works

Tax-increment financing – TIF – is a development tool that pools increased property taxes in a specific area from all underlying jurisdictions, including the local school district and the county, and puts it under control of the municipality. The municipality borrows money and pays back the borrowing with the increased taxes on the development under the understanding that the development would not have happened “but for” the TIF.

In some cases, that developer incentive levels the playing field for a desired area of the city against an undesired area, such as in the case with blighted inner cities, or helps with site development costs. In other cases, it helps a city compete with other cities.

each of three phases. The first phase is to explore to specifics of the new district. In the final phase, Ehler puts together and submits the application to the state.

If the TIF functions as planned, it would facilitate a 305,000 square foot expansion of the current Sub-Zero/Wolf manufacturing facility, costing \$50 to \$60 million to construct. The new facility would employ approximately 100 full-time employees at around \$18 per hour, according to a presentation given to the council.

Newly-elected mayor and then-Alder Steve Arnold introduced a measure to add additional phases to the proposed contract, which was voted down 7 to 1, with Arnold casting the lone vote

in favor of the measure.

Founded in 1945, Sub-zero specializes in commercial refrigerators, and began its presence in Fitchburg after the launch of a specialized wine cooler. The acquisition of Wolf Gourmet expanded the company’s portfolio into cooking instruments.

Ehler was the same company hired to explore the creation of the city’s four existing TIF areas, known as TIDs. The other TIDs include the Technology Park Campus which is home to Promega and the City Government; the intersection of McKee and Verona roads; near Rolfsmeyer Lane and Syene Road; and the intersection of Fish Hatchery Road and Greenway Cross.

Steele pleads guilty, shifts trial focus to mental health

SCOTT GIRARD
Unified Newspaper Group

A jury is scheduled to decide this month if a former Dane County Sheriff’s deputy had the mental capacity to recognize the wrongs of his actions when he killed his wife and sister-in-law in Fitchburg last August.

Andrew Steele, 40, pleaded guilty March 27 to two charges of first degree intentional homicide, acknowledging he killed Ashlee Steele, 39, and Kacey Tollefsbol, 38, Aug. 22 at his home in the Highlands of Seminole neighborhood. He had pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity in February.

Instead of deciding his guilt, a jury will now determine if a mental illness from a nerve condition Andrew Steele has alleviates his responsibility for the killings. Andrew Steele was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s disease, months before the killings.

“We’re having a trial about the why,” Jessa



Steele

Nicholson, one of Steele’s attorneys, told the Star. “Why did this happen?”

Two questions

Unlike deciding on a person’s guilt, jury members will not need a unanimous decision to determine the outcome for Andrew Steele. Instead, 10 of 12 jurors are needed for a decision, Nicholson said.

She said the jury has to answer two questions in the trial process. The first is whether Andrew Steele was suffering from a mental illness at the time of the killings.

If they answer yes to that, they will then have to determine if that mental illness made him unable to understand the wrongfulness of what he did or unable to conform his conduct to the law.

If the answer to either question is no, Andrew Steele would be sent to prison, Nicholson said. If the jury finds he was not in a mental state to be responsible for his actions, Nicholson said he would be committed to the state Department of Human Services and likely end up at Mendota Mental Health or a similar institution.

Insanity plea

Nicholson said they decided to change the

defense and plea after deciding it was what the evidence most strongly supported.

“We have significant scientific evidence that suggests at the time of the offense he was suffering from what is referred to as front temporal dementia ... or a major neuropathic disorder that rendered him incapable of conforming his conduct to the law,” Nicholson said.

The Wisconsin State Journal reported there were disagreements during a hearing following the plea about what evidence would be presented during the insanity phase.

The State Journal also reported jurors could be asked their thoughts about sexual practices that include bondage, as a zip tie was found around Ashlee Steele’s neck. Andrew Steele told police that was part of a consensual sex act, but assistant district attorney Andrea Raymond said it could show planning and an earlier attempt to kill Ashlee Steele.

According to online court records, jury selection is slated for April 13, with the trial set to begin April 14 and last about two weeks.

Fitchburg man charged with child porn possession

A Fitchburg man was arrested April 2 on 10 felony counts of possessing child porn following an investigation by the Wisconsin Department of Justice.

Adolfo Silva Miranda, 39, was arrested at his apartment on Greenway Cross after agents from the DOJ executed a search warrant and allegedly found pornographic images and videos of children on Silva’s laptop, according to a criminal complaint filed in

Dane County Circuit Court.

Silva Miranda told investigators that he used a peer-to-peer file sharing program to search for and download the images and videos. He “views the child pornography for a moment and then closes or deletes it,” the complaint reads.



Silva Miranda

Silva Miranda was jailed Tuesday on \$10,000 bail, online court records show. A preliminary hearing is set for April 14.

If convicted, Silva Miranda faces a mandatory three-year prison sentence for each of the 10 counts, though a Dane County judge recently ruled that the minimum sentencing requirement is vague and may not apply.

– Mark Ignatowski

Fitchburg Fields will have two gardens

After spending most of last year trying to find public land to relocate its gardens to, Fitchburg Fields will dig in two different spots on private land this year.

The nonprofit food-growing operation will be able to plant on a quarter-acre parcel at the Fitchburg Farms nursery, near Hwys.

14 and MM, and on a dozen 10-foot-by-20-foot plots at the property of the Gardens at Swan Creek Condos, near Lacy Road.

Executive director Amanda Hall said Fitchburg Fields is grateful to be leasing both spaces, which will allow the group to extend the harvest and donate to local food

pantries longer.

The group will have a garden work day Sunday, May 3, to work up the plots of land. Those interested in volunteering or lending a rototiller for use that day, email fitchburgfields@gmail.com.

– Samantha Christian

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Letters to the editor

State budget changes will hurt some families

I am writing to express my concern about the changes to long term care in the governor's proposed budget. Specifically, the statewide implementation of Family Care, the elimination of IRIS, and combining of long term supports with acute and primary medical care.

My son, Arash, is 21 years old with an autism and significant mental health problems, who lives with us in Fitchburg. Currently, Arash receives supports through Self Directed Medicaid waivers. Arash works a part-time job, actively participates in and contributes to his community, with the support he receives. As a family, we work very hard to ensure Arash has the best life possible and there are people in his life to support him and help him be successful. These supports not only provide independence for Arash, but peace of mind for us as a family.

The governor's budget calls for that implementation in less than two years with a drastically different Family Care than what is in place today. The most

recent counties to join Family Care spent four years planning the change and that was into an existing system.

Family Care implementation as proposed means Arash may not be able to continue the job he currently has. If IRIS is eliminated, it could mean that Arash will have very little control over who supports him and which supports he needs. Combining long term supports with medical care that are both managed under one large umbrella could put Arash in the position of choosing between a psychiatrist we have worked with since he was 15 and a job that he enjoys and is proud of, since there is no guarantee that his current health care providers and job supports would be part of the same MCO's provider network.

We are asking concerned citizens to call their state representative and state senator and express concerns regarding these changes.

Syrus Soltani
Fitchburg

Both parties need to focus on immigration reform

With the 2016 Presidential election in their sights, potential candidates have started their travels across the country to meet with American voters.

And while meeting with the nation's voters, there is one significant change that will likely stand out: the U.S. electorate is not what it once looked like.

The voter demographic in this country is rapidly changing. This is especially apparent with regards to the swelling tide of Hispanic and Asian voters, both of whom are projected to expand by as many as 19.2 million come the 2016 election, according to a study by the Partnership for a New American Economy (PNAE).

To put this in perspective, the 2012 presidential election was determined by just five million votes. So, how can political candidates reach this growing and key constituency? Answer: immigration reform.

In Wisconsin, immigrants have long been foundational contributors in growing the state's economy. Over the last 30 years, the number one motivating force behind job creation has been new business generation. Here in our state, immigrant entrepreneurs have made a considerable impact by starting more than 10,000

businesses, according to the PNAE. A closer look at the data shows that these immigrant-owned businesses brought in nearly \$600 million in business income annually between 2006 and 2010.

That's why it's important to bring the country's 11 million undocumented immigrants into the legal economy so they can pay taxes, attain better education and contribute even more to U.S. economic growth.

As president of the Latino Chamber of Commerce of Dane County and a resident of Fitchburg who became a U.S. citizen in 2011, I see many immigrants who are unable to grow their own businesses because they can't obtain something as simple as a driver's license. Here in our own city, I'm helping a Latina-owned business that is stuck in its quest to expand because the owner needs help with credit.

The number of Hispanic voters in Wisconsin, and across the country, is growing exponentially. Dane County saw a 101 percent increase in Hispanic residents from 2000 to

2010, according to the U.S. Census. In Fitchburg, Hispanic residents make up 17.2 percent of the population, a significant number, especially compared to our neighbors—Verona (2.5 percent), Oregon (2.2 percent) and Madison (6.8 percent).

Both political parties, especially Republicans, who want to appeal to this emerging voter bloc must recognize the genuine role Hispanics hold in this community and their desire to contribute and better the lives of their families and communities.

Immigration is a threshold issue that yields significant influence in the Hispanic voter bloc. In fact, a recent PNAE poll found that 56 percent of Hispanic voters in swing states would be less likely to vote for a presidential candidate opposing a path to citizenship or legal status.

Contrary to popular belief, the immigrant vote is not locked up for Democrats, as both parties have ample opportunity to gain immigrant support, if they chose to embrace this group and support the need for immigration reform.

Julia Arata-Fratta is president of the Latino Chamber of Commerce of Dane County and a resident of Fitchburg. She was recently elected to the Fitchburg Common Council.



Arata-Fratta

Use your senses to enjoy mindful meals

It's not uncommon for responsible people to be mindful about their monthly budget or expenses or for considerate citizens to be mindful about their actions towards others. We're mindful about several things going on during our day, but then why do most people find it challenging to be mindful about what they're eating?

When I mention "mindful eating" to people, I often receive a look that is similar to if I had just told them to meditate and chant over their food. Which, to be clear, is not what I mean at all. Mindful eating – the exact opposite of mindless eating – is a way to focus on what you're eating, to fully engage in the act of eating with all your senses, and to take away all distractions that may cause you to overeat without you even realizing it.

By definition, mindfulness is paying attention on the present or living in the moment. Do you ever find your hand reaching into the bottom of an empty popcorn bowl while watching a movie, wondering where the popcorn went? Or eat at the same time every day – even if you're not hungry – just because that's what you always do? These are instances where we're not living in the moment. Mindless eating happens when we're not really focused on the act of eating and often includes eating when we're not even truly hungry or at a speed so fast our bodies don't even realize we just ate.

To gain back control of our eating and to help most of us get to that desired weight, we need to be mindful about what we're putting into our mouths – and actually enjoy the food we're eating! Although mindful eating isn't always easy to do (I'm still

working on it), especially with our hectic and chaotic culture, it's possible to mindfully eat with continued persistence and effort. I guarantee, if you're truly mindfully eating, you'll start enjoying your food more and will soon notice pounds being shed without the hassle of counting calories or numbers.



Hoerr

Here are a few tips to help end your mindless munchies: Take a seat. So often people stand in front of the fridge, nibbling on leftovers or stand at the kitchen counter eating a snack. By standing, you're already anticipating the next thing you have to do (and more likely to overeat by eating out of the container or bag). Take the time to enjoy that piece of leftover pie in the fridge – slice yourself a portion, put it on a plate, and sit to enjoy it.

Eat when you're eating. Put away your phone, computer, TV, or book while you're eating. Don't drive, work, or do another task. These all steer your attention away from eating, leading you to overeat. Meal time is not the time for multitasking.

Reign it in and slow down. Have you mastered the 5-minute meal? The meal-on-the-go? So many people eat so quickly, it's amazing they even tasted what they ate. Aim to take 20 minutes to eat a meal. This allows time for your body to tell your brain that you're satisfied. Try to do this by setting down your fork after each bite, taking a sip of water after every

few bites, or eating with chopsticks for part of the meal.

Savor each bite. Mindfully eating is eating with all your senses. Tune in by noticing the flavors, the colors of your meal, the texture of each bite, the smells and aromas, and the sound the food makes as you chew. Engaging all your senses helps you appreciate your food more and may help you become satisfied with less.

Mindfully check in. Throughout your meal, rate your hunger. On a scale of 1 (ravenous) to 10 (overly stuffed), where are you? If you're at a 7 – satisfied, but not full – it's time to stop, even if there is still some left on your plate.

Shift out of autopilot and start tracking. Tracking your food can bring awareness to what you're putting in your mouth throughout the day. It can be as easy as just taking pictures of your meals and snacks. Tracking can help you cut back on the number of mindless munchies you have during the day and help you note your triggers for mindless eating.

You've tried other diets before, so why not give mindful eating a try. No chanting necessary.

Kara Hoerr, MS, RD, CD, is the registered dietitian at the Fitchburg Hy-Vee. For more nutrition information or questions, contact her at khoerr@hy-vee.com or 608-273-5125.

This information is not intended as medical advice. Please consult a medical professional for individual advice.

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Northeast Neighborhood

Few positive comments to DNR on sewer service expansion

Agency ruling expected this month

SCOTT GIRARD
Unified Newspaper Group

The state Department of Natural Resources didn't get many positive comments about the potential Northeast Neighborhood, but a decision on the development should be made soon.

A decision on extending sewer service to the area is expected this month. The ruling follows a public comment period and a disagreement between the city, DNR and Dane County executive Joe Parisi about the appeals process for municipalities that disagree with local commission decisions.

Wisconsin DNR water quality bureau director Susan Sylvester told the Star Tuesday the agency received about 65 comments opposed to and five in favor of expanding sewer service to the city's Northeast Neighborhood development. The public comment period ran from Thursday, March 12, through Friday, April 3.

On the web

For the DNR's decision expected later this month on the Northeast Neighborhood sewer service expansion, visit:

ConnectFitchburg.com

Sylvester said the DNR would issue an administrative decision "probably within two weeks."

The DNR is deciding on the expansion because the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission, which advises the state on sewer service expansions in Dane County, voted against Fitchburg's request for an extension in November.

City administrator Tony Roach then sent a letter to the DNR requesting they review the decision after initial disagreement on whether the city had to formally request a review.

Mayor-elect Steve Arnold was among those who sent comments opposing the expansion to the DNR. He told the Star he believes the development is "illegal" because the city has not followed its plan of having a new groundwater model and

an east fire station.

"Those are strong words, but we don't have compelling reasons to open that area," he said. "We have tons of development land. The more we spread it out, the more fiscally and environmentally risky it is."

Parisi letter

Dane County Executive Joe Parisi sent a letter in early January questioning the process a municipality must go through for the DNR to review a CARPC decision.

"If DNR bows to the City of Fitchburg's pressure, it would throw into question the process by which a municipality needs to follow in order to obtain a meaningful review of its proposal," he wrote, referencing Roach's attempt to "lobby" the agency before he sent a letter on behalf of the city later in the month.

"It would also further erode the value that Dane County citizens receive by funding its regional planning commission."

Parisi said the city was avoiding a formal challenge to the decision "by secretly pressuring the agency" to review the decision.

DNR deputy secretary Matt Moroney responded to Parisi later in January. In that letter, Moroney informed Parisi that the agency received a request from the city the same day Parisi sent his letter to the DNR. Moroney also outlined what steps were next in the process.

Moroney ended the letter by expressing concern about "the inability of CARPC to complete its reviews of municipal Urban Service Amendments ... in a timely manner."

He wrote that the DNR would request a meeting with CARPC board members in the near future to discuss the process.

Check ConnectFitchburg.com later this month for an update when DNR issues its decision.

Wisconsin and Southern to resume freight rail service

BILL LIVICK
Unified Newspaper Group

City of Fitchburg residents can expect more train traffic through the city starting this month.

The Wisconsin and Southern Railroad will resume freight service to the Lycon Ready Mix concrete facility in Oregon within the next few weeks.

The activation of the rail line through the city last fall could help encourage development and even lead to a passenger rail line in the future.

Freight trains began running on the rail line through Fitchburg last October to serve the Lycon Inc. concrete production plant in Oregon's Alpine Business Park. A few trains passed through the city in October, but regular freight use of the line will begin this year in April and run through October, said Ken Lucht, director of government relations for Wisconsin and Southern.

Trains are expected to run three times per week – likely Monday, Wednesday and Friday – and will be limited to speeds of 30 mph and 10 mph at rail crossings.

Wisconsin and Southern crews will be doing maintenance work along the track and at railroad crossings on McCoy Road, Clayton Road, East Cheryl Parkway, Lacy Road, Irish Lane, Byrne Road, as well as Braun Road and Netherwood Road in Oregon. Crews will also be cutting brush and trees between Oregon and Brooklyn this year.

City officials hope the line's reactivation will lead to its future use by a private or public entity here. They hope to one day bring back passenger service, and someday Fitchburg could have a business that wants rail.

"A community having a rail line is a real trump

card" for economic development, said former mayor and current state railroad commission employee Tom Clauder.

Many years ago, he said, the Chicago Northwestern used the line and had passenger rail going from Chicago to Madison in 2.5 hours.

In 1999, the city and the Village of Oregon purchased a 10-mile stretch of the rail line, from McCoy Road to Butts Corner Road, a mile north of Evansville.

Last August, the Common Council approved the sale of the line to the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission, an entity that the state legislature established in 1980 with the purpose of protecting and preserving freight rail corridor in southern Wisconsin.

City manager Tony Roach said city planners are "trying to develop in a manner that's dense enough to support rail transit in the future" on the east side of Fitchburg.

"The whole idea of having the city and the village step in and purchase this line was that had we not done that, it probably would have gone to a Rails-to-Trails bike path," Roach explained. "We wanted to preserve that economic corridor for not only freight rail, but also in the future we're hoping that there might be some passenger rail."

Roach said "very long-range planning" was behind the municipalities' decision to buy the rail line, but there may be some other uses in the near term, as well.

That could include "some little excursion kind of things," Roach said. "Wisconsin and Southern is interested in talking to us about doing special things like that."

He added that the city has no plans presently to use the line.

Search for city's first full-time fire chief begins

Applications accepted through May 3

It will be several months before a full-time fire chief is hired at the City of Fitchburg, but the application process is already under way.

The full-time chief would be a first for Fitchburg. The city's previous fire chief, Randy Pickering, was a volunteer. The department is currently led by interim chief Chad Grossen. The chief will oversee 11 full-time and 77

paid-on-call firefighters, as well as six interns.

The job announcement for the position shows the position will pay between \$86,528 – 98,883 plus benefits. The Common Council approved funds to hire a full-time chief as part of the 2015 budget, however the hiring was scheduled so that the city will only have to cover four months of the salary and benefits this year. That move allowed the city to remain within the state's expenditure restraint program and receive additional funds from the state.

The city posted the job

April 6 and will accept applications until May 3.

Applicant screening will start in mid-May with interviews slated for June 10. Background checks will start in late June. The city's Police and Fire Commission will make an offer of employment in July and the new chief would start Sept. 1.

The city is looking for a candidate with at least five years of senior management in the fire service. More information and an application can be found at: city.fitchburg.wi.us/187/Job-Openings

City administrator search

The city's personnel committee was to meet at 8 a.m. Friday, April 10, to review applications for the city administrator position.

Candidates were to be evaluated and selected for interviews later this month.

Current administrator Tony Roach, who has been with the city for 15 years, will retire in July. The new administrator would start July 13.

– Mark Ignatowski

Allen: Fitchburg Days still planned for May 15-17

The Fitchburg Days Committee president said he expects the summer festival to go on in May, though no permits have been approved by the city's public safety commission yet.

Jay Allen told the Star Monday he would get the paperwork filed within a day or two and expected to be on the committee's agenda later this month.

"It's not the first time we've gotten stuff in at this point (in the process)," Allen said. "There really

isn't any reason it shouldn't be approved."

Committee chair Ald. Carol Poole (Dist. 1) told the Star the only question would be getting the paperwork in with time to get it on an agenda.

"It's going to get judged by the same criteria and given the same consideration as any other application that comes forward," Poole said. "The key is going to be are the fees paid?"

Alcohol license approvals for the festival would also

go through the council as part of its consent agenda, Poole said, meaning it takes the advisory vote of the committee and agrees.

The committee has meetings April 14 and 28, and May 12 before the festival.

The festival's future came into question earlier this year when the committee disbanded, but Allen has continued to lead it with new members and said he wants the festival to continue.

The other committee

members wanted to take a year off and try to revamp the festival, but those discussions are ongoing.

– Scott Girard

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Calendar of Events

- Friday, April 10**
 - Brush collection begins (have out at curb by 6:30 a.m. Monday of collection week), Fitchburg, 270-4260
 - Yard waste collection begins (and May 11, Oct. 26, Nov. 16), Fitchburg, 270-4260
 - 7:30 p.m., Ghost Wolves (\$8, \$6 advance), True Coffee
- Saturday, April 11**
 - 10:30 a.m., Chinese/English Storytime, library, 729-1763
 - 7:30 p.m., The Lowest Pair (\$10, \$8 advance), True Coffee
- Monday, April 13**
 - 9:30 a.m., Preschool Storytime (ages 2-5), library, 729-1763
 - 11 a.m., Preschool Storytime (ages 2-5), library, 729-1763
 - 1 p.m., Cards with Katie (\$10, register), senior center, 270-4290
 - 6 p.m., Family Storytime, library, 729-1760
 - 7 p.m., Excel Intermediate class, library, 729-1760
- Tuesday, April 14**
 - 11 a.m., Lapsit Storytime (ages 0-2), library, 729-1760
 - 2 p.m., Men’s Group, senior center
 - 7:30 p.m., Common Council, City Hall
- Wednesday, April 15**
 - 10 a.m., Book Discussion: I Am Malala, library, 729-1760
 - 6:30 p.m., All About Composting, library, 729-1760
 - 7-8 p.m., Mother Daughter Book Club: “Out of My Mind” by Sharon Draper, library, 729-1760
 - 11:30 a.m., UW Extension Nutrition with Tonia: Fast food, senior center
- Thursday, April 16**
 - 4-7 p.m., Fitchburg Chamber

- Spring Business Expo, Fitchburg Community Center, 5510 Lacy Road
- Friday, April 17**
 - 7:30 p.m., Jamie Lono and The Noble Heart (\$12, \$10 advance), True Coffee
- Saturday, April 18**
 - 9-11 a.m., Resource Conservation Commission’s Annual Waterway Cleanup, Schumann Greenway and Dunn’s Marsh North Complex along Crescent Road, 270-4264
 - 1-3 p.m., LEGOS @ the library (5 and up), library
 - 2-4 p.m., Bike Tune-up Workshop for Teens and Adults, library, 729-1760, matthew.heindel@fitchburgwi.gov
- Sunday, April 19**
 - 1:30 p.m., Fitchburg Historical Society: Molly Fifield Murray presentation on UW arboretum, library
- Monday, April 20**
 - 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program starts, library, 729-1762
 - 8 a.m. to noon, Agrace volunteer orientation (register), 5395 E. Cheryl Pkwy., 327-7163
 - 9:30 a.m., Preschool Storytime (ages 2-5), library, 729-1760
 - 11 a.m., Preschool Storytime (ages 2-5), library, 729-1760
 - 7 p.m., Library eBooks, library, register at reference desk or call 729-1760
- Tuesday, April 21**
 - 10 a.m., Bike Group kick off, Fitchburg Cycles, 270-4292
 - 11 a.m., Lapsit Storytime (ages 2-5), library, 729-1760
 - 2 p.m., Learning Annex: speaker from Stoughton Opera House, senior center
 - 5 p.m., READ to a Dog (sign

- up), library, 729-1760
- 6 p.m., Teen Crafting Corner, library, 729-1760
 - 7 p.m., Plan Commission, City Hall
- Wednesday, April 22**
 - 10:30 a.m., Going Green: Earth Day Celebration! (ages 2-5), library, 729-1760
 - 6:30 p.m., All About Rain Barrels, library, 729-1760
- Thursday, April 23**
 - 1 p.m., Bouncing Babies (ages 0-1), library, 729-1760
 - 1-3 p.m., Informational presentation on digital photos (free, register), senior center, 270-4290
 - 1:30 p.m., I Love a Mystery Book Club: “The Silver Pigs” by Lindsey Davis, senior center
 - 6 p.m., Teen Library Council, library, 729-1760
 - 7-10 p.m., 27th annual Capital City Jazz Fest kick-off celebration (\$10), Quality Inn and Suites, 2969 Cahill Main, madisonjazz.com, 850-5400
- Friday, April 24**
 - 4 p.m., Planting for Spring (ages 4-12 and adults), library, 729-1760
 - 6-9 p.m., Kids Lock-In (grades 3-5, register), library, 729-1760
 - 6:30-11 p.m., 27th annual Capital City Jazz Fest (\$35, \$32 advance), Quality Inn and Suites, 2969 Cahill Main, madisonjazz.com, 850-5400
 - 7:30 p.m., Sleep Study (\$8, \$6 advance), True Coffee
- Saturday, April 25**
 - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 6-11 p.m., 27th annual Capital City Jazz Fest (sold out), Quality Inn and Suites, 2969 Cahill Main, madisonjazz.com, 850-5400
 - 7:30 p.m., An Evening with Sam Llanas (\$20, \$18 advance), True Coffee

- Sunday, April 26**
 - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Fitchburg Flea Market, McGaw Park, 332-9905
 - 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Fast and Furious Criterium bike race, Fitchburg Center, 5500 E. Cheryl Pkwy., madcityvelo.com/criterium
 - 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., 27th annual Capital City Jazz Fest (\$35, \$32 advance), Quality Inn and Suites, 2969 Cahill Main, madisonjazz.com, 850-5400
 - 7:30 p.m., Lil iFFy (\$8, \$6 advance), True Coffee
- Monday, April 27**
 - 7 p.m., Best of the Web: Gardening, library, 729-1760
- Tuesday, April 28**
 - 2 p.m., Active Women’s Group, senior center
 - 7:30 p.m., Common Council, City Hall
- Wednesday, April 29**
 - 10 a.m., Toddler Art (ages 1-3), library, 729-1760
 - 1-1:30 p.m., Sling Tv class (free, register), senior center, 270-4290
 - 1-3 p.m., And Then There Was One: Workshop for End of Life Preparedness (register by April 22), senior center, 270-4290
- Thursday, April 30**
 - 10:30 a.m. to noon, iPad class (free, register), senior center, 270-4290
 - 1-3 p.m., Canvas painting class (\$44), senior center, 270-4290
- Saturday, May 2**
 - 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Arbor Day/Migratory Bird Day Celebration, McKee Farms Park
- Sunday, May 3**
 - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Fitchburg Flea Market, McGaw Park, 332-9905

- 11 a.m., Puppy Up! 2-mile walk (\$30), McKee Farms Park, puppyupmadison.kintera.org
- Monday, May 4**
 - 7 p.m., Microsoft Publisher Basics, library, 729-1760
- Wednesday, May 6**
 - 11:30 a.m., 90’s party featuring Fitchburg Singers (RSVP by 1 p.m. May 5), senior center, 270-4290
 - 1-3 p.m., And Then There Was One: Workshop for End of Life Preparedness (register by April 22), senior center, 270-4290
- Thursday, May 7**
 - 12 p.m., Crafternoon (Book and Craft Group for adults), library, 729-1760
 - 3-6 p.m., Fitchburg Farmers Market opens, Agora Pavilion
 - 6:30 p.m., Green Thursdays Film Screening: Bitter Seeds, library, 729-1760

- Friday, May 8**
 - 7:30 p.m., After the Rain (\$8, \$6 advance), True Coffee
- Saturday, May 9**
 - 8-11 a.m., First Clean Sweep Event with Electronics Recycling, Shred Day, Fitchburg
 - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Second annual Kids Building Wisconsin community event, McKee Farms Park, kidsbuildingwi.org
- Sunday, May 10**
 - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Fitchburg Flea Market, McGaw Park, 332-9905
- Tuesday, May 12**
 - 5:30-8 p.m., What You Need to Know about Enrolling in Medicare, senior center
 - 5-9 p.m., Agrace volunteer orientation (register, apply), 5395 E. Cheryl Pkwy., 327-7163

Coming Up

Green events

The library will be holding many earth-friendly programs for kids and adults this month in honor of Earth Day.

At 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, adults are invited to attend “All About Composting” by EnAct.

The next week at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 22, kids ages 2-5 are invited to the “Going Green - Earth Day Celebration” in the second floor meeting room to share stories and environmentally-friendly crafts. Later that evening at 6:30 p.m., adults can learn “All About Rain Barrels” by EnAct.

At 4 p.m. Friday, April 24, both adults and kids (ages 4-12) are encouraged to attend “Planting for Spring” to talk about the seed library, learn some seed facts and even do some spring planting.

On Monday, April 27, stop by the technology center at 7 p.m. for “Best of the Web: Gardening” to learn about websites and apps to help plan your planting.

Green Thursdays wraps up its series of free film screenings at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 7, with a showing of “Bitter Seeds,” a documentary exploring the biotechnology controversy by discussing genetically modified seeds.

Spring business expo

The Fitchburg Chamber is holding its Spring Business Expo from 4-7 p.m. Thursday, April 16, at the Fitchburg Community Center, 5510 Lacy Road.

More than 60 exhibitors will showcase their goods and services. There will be free admission, free refreshments and door prizes

for over 400 attendees.

For more information, visit fitchburgchamber.com.

Waterway cleanup

Fitchburg’s spring waterway cleanups are tentatively planned for 9-11 a.m. Saturday, April 18, rain or shine.

A cleanup will be held on the north side of Dunn’s Marsh along Crescent Road. Additional details on the waterway cleanups will be posted at fitchburgwi.gov/storm-water closer to the events.

Bike tune-up workshop

Teens and adults can learn about their bikes at the library from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, April 18.

Freewheel Bikes will familiarize you with the different parts of your bike, how they work together and help you perform simple fixes and tune-ups.

To register, call 729-1760 or email matthew.heindel@fitchburgwi.gov

Historical society

The Fitchburg Historical Society will feature Molly Fifield Murray, outreach and education manager at the UW-Madison Arboretum, at its next meeting.

She will describe the history of the arboretum, the unique living laboratory just north of Fitchburg, at the FHS general meeting at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 19, at the library.

Fitchburg Cycles

The Fitchburg Senior Center will be teaming up with Fitchburg Cycles at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 21, next to the Great Dane, 2970 Cahill Main.

Learn what it takes to change

a tire, feather your gears to run smoothly and the kick-off to the bike season.

For more information, contact David at 270-4292.

Learning Annex

Learn about the history and operating goals of the history-rich Stoughton Opera House from event coordinator Christina Dollhausen at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, at the senior center.

Digital pictures

There will be a free, informational presentation about taking and altering digital photos at the senior center from 1-3 p.m. Thursday, April 23.

To register, call 270-4290.

Capital City Jazz Fest

The 27th annual Capital City Jazz Fest, presented by the Madison Jazz Society, will be held from April 23-26, at the Quality Inn and Suites, 2629 Cahill Main.

The event will feature a lineup of musicians from all over the country, including the Uptown Lowdown Jazz Band, Wally’s Warehouse Waifs, the Climax Jazz Band and the Midiri Brothers Jazz Sextet.

For more information about show times or to purchase tickets, call 850-5400 or visit madisonjazz.com.

End of life preparedness

“And Then There Was One ... A Comprehensive Guide for End of Life Preparedness” will be held from 1-3 p.m. Wednesdays, April 29 and May 6, at the senior center. To register, call 270-4290 by April 22.

The two-part series related to

end-of-life planning will include topics such as funeral arrangements, wills, powers of attorney, tax laws when filing as a single person, estate expenses at time of death and Social Security changes.

Senior day trips

The Oregon, Fitchburg and Verona senior centers are teaming up to offer day trips through Badger Tour and Travel.

The first is Tuesday, June 16 - “Maggie Mae & the Heartland Country Band Barn Dance,” at Maggie May and Roger Hilliard’s farm. Enjoy country music, dancing and lunch. The registration deadline May 1.

Call 1-800-416-2049 for more information.

Puppy walk

The Puppy Up! Madison Walk will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, May 3, at McKee Farms Park.

Bring your dog along for the 2-mile walk, which is being held to promote awareness of canine cancer and fundraise for cancer research to benefit both pets and people.

Registration begins at 10 a.m., and the fee is \$30. For more information or to register online, visit puppyupmadison.kintera.org.

90’s party

The senior center will recognize older adults 90 years and older for a celebration at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 6, during Older Americans Month. Lunch will be served at noon.

Immediately following, the Fitchburg Singers will debut their new program, “A Kaleidoscope of Music from Romance to Ragtime,” which includes western style, love songs, music from

other lands, dance music and songs from yesteryear.

To sign up, call 270-4290 no later than 1 p.m. May 5.

Clean sweep

Fitchburg will hold its first clean sweep event from 8-11 a.m. Saturday, May 9, at the Public Works Maintenance Facility, 2373 S. Fish Hatchery Road.

To cover the cost of disposal, there will be a charge of \$10 per vehicle for those disposing of unneeded hazardous household products.

This event will coincide with electronics recycling at Surplus IT, 901 Watson Ave., shred day at Oak Bank, 5951 McKee Road, and med drop at the police station lobby.

Information about other options for recycling may be found in Fitchburg’s 2015 Recycling Guide at fitchburgwi.gov/solid-waste.

Benefit rescheduled

Verona Area Needs Network has rescheduled its spring benefit concert for the Move the Food capital campaign.

“Groove the Food” with singer/songwriter Beth Kille and guitarist Michael Tully will be tentatively held Thursday, June 11, at Tuvalu Coffeehouse. Times will be announced at a later date.

Agrace volunteers

Agrace HospiceCare, 5395 E. Cheryl Pkwy., will be offering volunteer orientations in April and free grief support opportunities that are open to the public.

For more information, call 327-7163 or visit agrace.org.

Bike race set for Fitchburg Center April 26

Seeing bikers in Fitchburg isn't anything new, but a road race later this month will bring racers to the Fitchburg Center.

MadCity Velo's Fitchburg Fast and Furious Criterium bike race is set to take place Sunday, April 26 on a 1-kilometer course circling the Agora Center and Pavillion.

The criterium, according to USA Cycling, "is a multi-lap race of 25 to 60 miles held on a closed course generally a mile or less in length. These races, which usually last one to two hours, are extremely fast – 30 mph and up." The races feature sprint laps where riders try to earn extra prizes.

Different race categories will ride throughout the day, with juniors starting around 9 a.m. The 60-minute pro race starts at 4:45 p.m. Registration information can be found at madcityvelo.com/criterium.

The race will close parts

If you go

What: MadCity Velo Fitchburg Fast and Furious Criterium bike race

When: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday, April 26

Where: Fitchburg Center, 5500 E. Cheryl Pkwy.

Info: madcityvelo.com/criterium

of East Cheryl Parkway, Woods Hollow Road and Research Drive for most of the day. The city's public safety committee approved the street use permit in late March. A detour route to Agrace Hospice Care will take drivers along Lacy Road east to Sunflower Drive and then onto East Cheryl Parkway.

— Mark Ignatowski

Bike for Boys and Girls Club moves to McKee Farms Park

The annual Bike for Boys and Girls Club fundraising event will move its location to McKee Farms Park. The event will be held Saturday, July 18.

The City of Fitchburg and Chamber of Commerce also pledged that the Fitchburg community will donate \$10,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of

Dane County to assist with the transition of moving the ride to Fitchburg.

The organization's largest fundraising event draws over a thousand riders and volunteers for the 7-mile, 25-mile or 50-mile routes.

Registration for the bike ride will begin April 15 by visiting bike4bgc.com.



Alexandra Stern hammers a nail into wood during last year's Kids Building Wisconsin event. This year's event is May 9.

Kids Building Wisconsin is May 9

Second annual event expects 2,000 kids

If you go

What: Kids Building Wisconsin

When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 9

Where: McKee Farms Park

Info: kidsbuildingwi.org

Tri-North will sponsor the second annual Kids Building Wisconsin event at McKee Farms Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 9.

This free, interactive community event aims to show kids and their families the potential that a career in the construction industry offers.

Kids Building Wisconsin is now established as a nonprofit, and its board of directors is led by president Pat Stern, who is also an account controller for Tri-North Builders.

Stern said the event will feature about 25 exhibits, including the popular building kits, painting stall, nail driving contest and video game simulator.

New this year will be a self-contained welding unit with sheet metal workers. There will also be bigger construction equipment, hands-on exhibits, a variety of food options and more chances to win prizes.

Hy-Vee will be cooking out for attendees, and a portion of the profits will go back to support the event.

The first 2,000 attendees will get free hard hats, and the event will be held rain or shine.

— Samantha Christian

Flea market starts April 26

The Fitchburg Flea Market will open for the season on Sunday, April 26, at McGaw Park under new leadership.

Malinda Sloan will be organizing this year's flea market featuring dozens of new vendors.

Items will include metal art, antiques and vintage collectibles, arts and crafts, refurbished furniture and jewelry. Also be on the lookout for a pink camper selling homemade cupcakes and pop tarts.

The flea market will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays through October. It will be closed a few Sundays when tournaments are happening at the park, including June 28 and July 19.

Sloan expects there to be at least 30 vendors this

If you go

What: Fitchburg Flea Market

When: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays April 26 through October

Where: McGaw Park, 5236 Lacy Road

Info: 332-9905

season with at least 12 showing up for the opening day. She said there will also be a couple of people selling produce later on.

For more information, contact Sloan at 332-9905 or 287-8948 or visit the Facebook page by searching for "Fitchburg Flea Market."

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Unified Newspaper Group

The referendum focused on constructing school additions, renovating buildings and upgrading technology infrastructure around the district.

Source: Dane County Clerk

The district will ask for input from parents and staff at the affected schools in October and November of this year. For more information on the referendum and schedule of upgrades, visit mmsd.org/referendum.

Unified Newspaper Group

Thornton

Thornton said the group

For more information, contact Thornton at 204-4436.



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SOMS Art Show

Savanna Oaks Middle School artists had a chance to show their work to family and friends Thursday, March 26, at the school's art gallery in the Step Room. The artwork was on display in the room for the week. Left, seventh-graders Mira Deutsch, left, and Jamie Hogan look around at the reception.

Photo by Scott Girard

Parents upset with Stoner Prairie behavior plan

SCOTT GIRARD
Unified Newspaper Group

Stoner Prairie Elementary School is taking steps to improve its behavior program and address recent criticism from parents.

But some of those critical parents have said the “action plan” issued by principal Mike Pisani in late March does not go far enough or does not address their concerns. It mainly addresses communication with parents while putting added emphasis on furthering the goals of Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) and the Nurtured Heart Approach (NHA).

The school, along with much of the rest of the Verona Area School District, has been focusing on these new approaches, which emphasize positive behaviors and focus on rewarding positives rather than punishing negatives. For instance, most of the district’s elementary schools begin the school year by teaching students appropriate behaviors for different settings such as the classroom, bus or lunchroom.

Pisani said NHA and PBIS are good approaches because it creates an “environment where there is positive,”

though he acknowledged some kids need “more and different” responses to behavior.

Last month, at a monthly principal and community meeting scheduled to focus on behavior, dozens of parents expressed their concerns. Pisani said the meeting was “more well-attended than our usual PAC meetings, prompting him to send out the action plan.

The plan outlines the school’s future approach, including reteaching the behaviors taught at the beginning of the year, consulting with outside behavioral experts, improving communication with parents and training staff on restorative practices.

He said it would “free up time” for staff to work with students and families that are having problems.

Some of the parents who have complained focused on what they see as a lack of consequences for student misbehavior, even when it rises to a serious level such as swearing at staff or a recent incident in which a student threw a chair. None of those who spoke to the Star wished to be identified.

Pisani acknowledged those incidents, but he disagreed

with the contention there are not consequences.

“We have consequences,” he said. “Our approach is to try to figure out what’s happening. What’s causing the behavior to happen? Consequences alone are not the answer.”

Pisani said the school is taking a “more private” approach to discipline, so some students may not know exactly what happens with those students who misbehaved and then rumors might spread.

“The kids may be not having a very clear picture of what’s happening, so the kids perceive nothing’s happening, that gets shared with the families,” Pisani said.

He also acknowledged that the approach has not been effective with every student.

“There’s been a couple of kids that we weren’t having the success we want (with),” he said.

Pisani said that while there were lots of questions at the meeting, he felt that it “was intended to be problem-solving” and focused on how everyone could work together to solve the problem.

A follow-up correspondence is expected after the school’s site council meets to further discuss the issue.

Voters approve referendum

SCOTT GIRARD
Unified Newspaper Group

Verona Area School District voters approved a referendum for the district to purchase land for future school expansion.

With 65 percent of voters choosing “yes” on the ballot measure, the school board has the authority to go ahead with purchases totaling up to \$8.35 million on three pieces of land. They must exercise options on two of the properties by April 21. The third piece of

Fitchburg vote

Yes	No
1114	606

Source: Dane County Clerk

land, the West End, might take longer, as the referendum approval also gave the board the ability to use eminent domain on that property.

The district had an agreement with the

property owner, Vanta Commercial Properties, but Vanta was unable to satisfy some of the contingencies in the agreement because a neighboring property owner who had to sign off on the purchase refused to do so.

Superintendent Dean Gorrell has said he hoped the district, Vanta and that owner, Terrence Wall and his company T. Wall Enterprises, could work out an agreement without using eminent domain if the referendum were approved.

What’s online

Read more VASD stories at ConnectFitchburg.com:

Pick a style

Read the third part in a series on personalized learning in the school district. This part covers the district’s charter schools: New Century School, Core Knowledge Charter School and Verona Area International School.

Closer to one-to-one

District officials revealed a plan Monday, March 30, to get closer to having one device for every student. IT will involve a \$250,000 lease to purchase iPads for most students grades 4-10 and up to 10 iPads per classroom in grades K-3.

No local cuts planned

Officials do not expect the ultimate state budget to exactly reflect Gov. Scott Walker’s initial proposal.

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Photos by Samantha Christian

Netherwood Knoll first-grader Henry Faber, 7, walks another student through his demonstration for the stroke cycle using an old lawn mower engine, including the intake, compression, power and exhaust.



Captivating science

The Oregon PTO Science Fair “Pi Day of the Century” was held at Prairie View Elementary School on Saturday, March 14. Students showed off their projects and had the chance to watch demonstrations by University of Wisconsin students and professors. Left, Prairie View second-grader Chloe Marin, 8, holds a Costa Rican cockroach.

What’s online

Read more OSD stories at ConnectFitchburg.com:

Pliner chosen as OHS principal

Former Oregon Middle School principal Jim Pliner was hired as the new Oregon High School principal. He will start July 1.

Pliner is currently an associate principal at Madison La Follette High School, though he has lived in Oregon since 2010.



Pliner

Referendum projects get set to begin

Elementary schools first to get upgrades

SCOTT DE LARUELLE
Unified Newspaper Group

With another cold winter rolling into the rear-view mirror, Oregon School District officials are looking forward to getting started on several referendum building projects.

The first set of projects from the \$55 million referendum voters passed in November has been designed and is almost ready to begin. Those include adding to and modernizing Brooklyn’s space and its front entrance and revamping the pickup and parking areas in front of Prairie View and Netherwood Knoll, as well as upgrading the heating and air conditioning systems. Oregon Middle School will also get a new, more secure entrance.

The full set of projects is not expected to start until at least next year, including around \$36.8 million worth of upgrades at the high school and \$7.8 million at the middle school.

Since December, a design team at each school has reviewed and updated the conceptual designs prepared by Bray Architects. The next step is to finalize those designs and turn them into the final building layouts before construction begins later this spring.

The plan is to have projects at Prairie View and Netherwood Knoll completed by



Rendering courtesy Bray Architects

Changes at Brooklyn Elementary School include two new kindergarten classrooms, a new cafeteria, kitchen and main office, and a more secure building entrance.

Sept. 1 in time for the new school year, as well as the new middle school entrance. Projects at Brooklyn are still in the planning phase, with a possible start later this summer, to be completed by the beginning of the next school year.

District officials will then turn their attention to the remaining upgrades. District superintendent Brian Busler said district officials are still planning for projects at both buildings, with hopes to have a tentative timeline next month.

Busler said the designs, based on staff and community requests and feedback, use the four guiding principles from the referendum process: Ensure safe and inspiring learning environments, create innovative and flexible learning environments, equitable access to technology and efficient, and functional and

sustainable spaces.

Brooklyn Elementary

Busler said changes at Brooklyn Elementary School will provide it with “21st century school space” to address the growing student population. The referendum cost for upgrades at the school was just under \$4.2 million.

The projects will add new kindergarten classrooms and a main office, and a new, more secure entrance in the center of the building. The library and two special education classrooms will be updated and a new cafeteria will be built to double as large group space for school and community use during off-school hours.

The current cafeteria will be used to create additional classrooms, which Busler said “will be a great help.”

Conceptual designs the architect is turning into a building layout show the new

cafeteria is to be flanked by a pair of new kindergarten classrooms on one side, and the new entrance, kitchen and main office on the other side.

PVE/NKE

The big change will address traffic flow between the two schools as well as stormwater runoff issues.

“The new traffic flow will close off the circle loop between the schools and further separate bus and parent drop off in a new improved design,” Busler said.

The cost for renovations to the two schools, which are located next to one another, is just over \$1.1 million, plus around \$1.7 million for heating, ventilation and air conditioning improvements.

A conceptual design provided to the Observer shows a new outdoor education classroom between the schools, which will also include a restored prairie, limestone walking path, amphitheater with bench seating and a butterfly garden. Busler said the changes will “add to the aesthetic beauty of the two school campus.”

Prairie View will also get a new, more secure entrance, similar to the design at Rome Corners Intermediate School.

Busler said the HVAC project, while “not flashy,” is very important, as the system at Netherwood is outdated and in need of an upgrade “so that we can heat and cool the classrooms in an appropriate manner.”

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Election: New mayor sees results as a ‘referendum on Northeast Neighborhood’

Continued from page 1

numbers were in that he was feeling “pretty awesome right now,” and expressed a readiness to “learn what the hell it means to be a mayor.”

He said he will set up a meeting with city administrator Tony Roach to “understand what the top priorities and responsibilities are” as mayor of Fitchburg.

Arnold looks to have a discussion on the city’s overall development strategy, specifically with the Northeast Neighborhood, and fixing the issue of transportation to the city’s central amenities like the library and senior center.

He said he hopes his leadership style will draw ideas from all parts of the city to determine what is best for Fitchburg.

Arnold’s priorities

Arnold told the Star he viewed the election partly as a “referendum on the Northeast Neighborhood and development style in general,” adding that he believes current plans for developing in that neighborhood are “illegal.” The state Department of Natural Resources is reviewing the city’s application to extend sewer service to that area, something Arnold opposes.

He said he wants the city to focus on infill development before expanding to neighborhoods like the Northeast. His other top priorities include transportation and creating “chemistry and teamwork” among city staff, with many new department heads being added within the last year, he said.

He also stressed the importance of his 10 years of experience on the council in helping him prepare for the issues the city faces.

“What you quickly find out ... is the board of directors of a large organization like our common council has to be up on everything,” he said. “I think that someone with my predecessor’s experience where you’re only on the council for two years ... gives him somewhat of a disadvantage. I hope to build on my experience.”

Pfaff ‘proud’

The April 7 election marks the first time Pfaff has lost a race while running for an elected seat in the City of Fitchburg.

Pfaff first became mayor in 2011 by defeating Jay Allen, who ran again in 2013 and this year but did not make it past a four-way primary in February. Pfaff had spent two years on the council in Dist. 4, and was a member of the Police and Fire Commission for two years before that.

Pfaff, who is the president at Pfaff Public Affairs consulting firm, said Tuesday night after results were in that he enjoyed his four years as mayor, and felt he made a positive impact on the city.

“I’m proud of my last four years,” he said. “I think Fitchburg is a better place than it was when I began.”

He said he wants to help the city “in any way possible” going forward, and “would take (Arnold’s) call” if there is any opportunity for him to be involved.

Mayoral results

	Dist. 1	Dist. 2	Dist. 3	Dist. 4	Total
Shawn Pfaff (I)	372	893	403	777	2,445
Steve Arnold	317	808	493	899	2,517

Alder races

Dist. 1, Seat 2	Votes
Carol Poole (I)	381
Michael Childers	255
Dist. 2, Seat 3	Votes
Julia Arata-Fratta	940
Roger Backes	606
Dist. 2, Seat 4	Votes
Patrick Stern (I)	881
Gary Hoerchner	339
Dist. 3, Seat 5	Votes
Jason C. Gonzalez (I)	380
Roger Laurel Tesch	335
Dist. 3, Seat 6	Votes
Dan Carpenter (I)	470
Zyronia Mims	305
Dist. 4, Seat 8	Votes
Tony Hartmann	798
Michael Gernetzke	598

Schools

Referendums	Yes	No
MMSD	45,558	9,884
VASD	3,274	1,704
OSD Board	Votes	
Steve Zach	2,087	
Marilyn McDole	1,600	

to be to have my way or the highway and roll over minorities or undermine majorities,” he said. “It’s to get everybody’s ideas on the table and fully discuss everything so that everybody understands.”

Arnold, who thanked Pfaff for his service to the city, said, “It’s going to be a really interesting two years.”

“I’m going to try to live up to the responsibility that (voters have) given me,” he said.

Oregon School Board

Steve Zach was reelected to the Oregon School Board over challenger Marilyn McDole.

In unofficial results on the Dane County Clerk’s website, Zach had 2,087 votes to McDole’s 1,600. In the lone Rock County precinct in the Oregon School District, Zach garnered nine votes to McDole’s three.

Madison, Verona referendums

Voters approved referendums in both the Madison Metropolitan and Verona Area school districts.

In Madison, the referendum was for \$41 million for building upgrades, renovations and technology improvements.

The \$8.35 million Verona referendum was to purchase three pieces of land. The district also has permission to use eminent domain on one of those pieces.

For more on the referendum results, see pages 8 and 9.

— Unified Newspaper Group reporter Scott De Laruelle contributed to this article.



Photo by Samantha Christian

From left, Bertha Voigt and Sharyn Streicher sign in to vote Tuesday morning at the Fitchburg Community Center with the help of polling workers Sue Moen and Pat Urben.

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Crafting royalty

Kids got to make shields, crowns and catapults March 27, at the Fitchburg Public Library. The crafting came after reading royal books, and plenty of kids dressed for the occasion. Michael Schmiesing, 6, of Fitchburg, shows his sister Sydnee how to use her marshmallow catapult.

Photos by Scott Girard



Raphael Jorgensen, 5, of Madison, picks out stickers for his shield.



Maya Wilfer, 3, of Fitchburg, glues decorations onto her shield.



Tomfoolery

The library hosted an “April Fool’s Tomfoolery” event on April 1, giving area children the opportunity to create crafts like trick sponge rings and broccoli disguised as lollipops. Above, youth librarian Kelly Witt supervises as 6-year-old Charlotte Sussman works on a batch of fake “dog dooty.” Left, Andrew Reimer, 9, squeezes glue into a cup while making fake “dog dooty.”

Photos by Jacob Bielanski

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Arata-Fratta elected to United Way board

United Way of Dane County recently announced the election of its 2015-16 board of directors. Among them is Fitchburg resident Julia Arata-Fratta.

Arata-Fratta, who was elected as District 2, seat 3 alder Tuesday, is a supervisor at Wegner CPAs.

The board is comprised of community leaders who guide the organization in its efforts to change lives through its agenda for change in the areas of education, income and health.

Seeking some savings

Energy task force helps cut down on costs

SCOTT DE LARUELLE
Unified Newspaper Group

The Fitchburg Senior Center has a well-established program to help keep seniors safe in their homes, so assistant director David Hill figured why not also help them save money.

“The light bulb went off – no pun intended,” he said.

Looking to help seniors cut down on energy costs in their homes during the winter months, Hill created the program last year, partnering with student volunteers from the University of Wisconsin for the labor and The Home Depot for supplies. He starts the process by visiting seniors’ homes to go through a energy-saving checklist, and then the students stop by to help with a variety of projects.

“We look for areas we could improve upon, like insulator sleeves for exposed hot water pipes, outside faucet covers, removal of CFL light bulbs and refrigerator coil cleaning,” Hill said. “The beauty of it is it’s simple and energy-efficient measures that volunteers can go through and complete in 30-45 minutes.”

He also works with programs like “Focus on Energy” to see if seniors qualify for things like attic insulation or a new furnace.

“We’re kind of that bridge to these other programs that maybe not a lot of people have heard of,” Hill said. “We want to make homes as energy-efficient as possible during those winter months.”

In this first year, the task force is working with around a dozen people, though Hill would like to increase that number as the project ramps up in the future. He’s also looking to add to the number of volunteers, who spend several hours each Wednesday for 11 weeks to assist seniors with a variety of projects.

“We need those kind of folks,” he said.

For more information on the task force, call Hill at 270-4292 or email dhill@fitchburgwi.gov.

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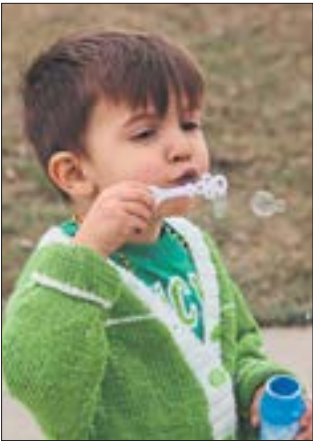
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Julian Arango-Escalante, 3, of Fitchburg, blows bubbles.

Family Frozen Fete

To celebrate its 30th anniversary, Wisconsin Literacy held a free Family Frozen Fete party at McKee Farms Park on March 15. The event featured a singalong, games, crafts and appearances by Disney's "Frozen" characters.

Photos by Scott Girard

On the web

See more photos from the event:
UNGphotos.SmugMug.com



Lana Kutkut, 2, of Fitchburg, makes a watercolor design.



Anna and Elsa from "Frozen" pose with Eva Arnold, 5, of Oregon.



Kids also decorated the sidewalks with chalk.

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Owen Strobeck, 2, empties candy into his bucket.

On the web

See more photos from the egg hunt:
UNGphotos.SmugMug.com



Gaige Sardenson, 11, helps Josh Runk find an egg for his daughter Atley, 1.

Easter egg hunt

The Fitchburg Lions Club held an Easter egg hunt for more than a thousand kids at McKee Farms Park on Saturday, April 4. The Easter Bunny and the Lions Club mascot also made an appearance.

Right, Calvin O'Connor, 8, gives the Easter Bunny a high-five.

Below, kids run toward the field of eggs at the start of the hunt.

Photos by Samantha Christian





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Hana Nishimoto, 1, holds an Easter egg following the hunt.

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KIDS!

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A 2015 special supplement by



Swimming spots

Page 17



Tech helps summer planning

Apps, websites offer advice, games, memories

SCOTT GIRARD
Unified Newspaper Group

Technology can be a distraction for kids, and sometimes may seem like the enemy for a parent trying to get their child to study or engage at the dinner table. Other parents may use it as a way to keep their kids busy while they have some quiet time. Whatever your strategy with technology and your children may be, it might be time to pick up the laptop or tablet and delve into the variety of applications and blogs dedicated to parenting. Many websites, blogs and phone or tablet applications

offer both new and experienced parents some extra tools to find engaging activities, record memories or just get advice on handling a tough situation. Madison Mamas blogger Rachel Barnes began her blog five years ago, when she “was home full-time and was getting a little stir crazy and was always on the computer looking for stuff to do.” But now, Barnes said, there are plenty of resources online for parents looking for something to do in the Madison area. “More and more has been popping up as it’s fairly easy now for people to blog or

create websites,” she said. “It’s not just for tech people.” Her own blog has become one example, offering stories from guest mom bloggers, recommendations on products and local event listings. She also has links to other websites that are good resources. “Websites can be really helpful in that respect of just figuring out the local happenings and events and just things that people might not know about,” she said. Another local blog, MomsInMadison.com, includes a regularly updated Facebook feed of events around the Madison area,

tips on gentle parenting and information on pregnancy and birthing classes. It also offers plenty of links to other outside resources. **Finding services** But it’s not just activities some parents are looking for that technology can help with. Finding childcare, for example, can be “overwhelming,” Barnes said. She mentioned YoungStar as a “really helpful resource” for finding childcare. The site offers ratings of local childcare centers along with details on recent monitoring and violations.

Turn to **Technology/Page 18**

Spring into reading

Programming starts this month at library with ‘1,000 Books’

SCOTT DE LARUELLE
Unified Newspaper Group

On the web

For more information on the Collaborative Summer Library Program and this year’s theme: cslpreads.org

The weather may be warming up, but that doesn’t mean people can’t still curl up with a good book or two. And as the calendar turns to spring and summer months, the Fitchburg Public Library has plenty of programs for people of all ages. It starts April 20 with the 2015 kick-off of “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” – the library’s annual program to increase the pre-literacy skills of its youngest patrons. Intended for families with children ages birth to 5, the program encourages parents to read 1,000 books with their children before they enter kindergarten.

Youth service librarian

Kelly Witt said reading to children is “incredibly important,” because when kids see parents reading, they want to model that behavior. “Reading builds vocabulary as well as communication skills, which lead to success in school,” she said. “Reading also stimulates imagination, increases attention span and cultivates strong relationships between children and books.” Participants in the program will receive reading logs to track the books they have read together to bring back to receive a prize. For more information,

Turn to **Reading/Page 18**



Photo by Samantha Christian

Mary McFarlane reads “From Head to Toe” by Eric Carle to her grandson, Graeme McFarlane, 4.



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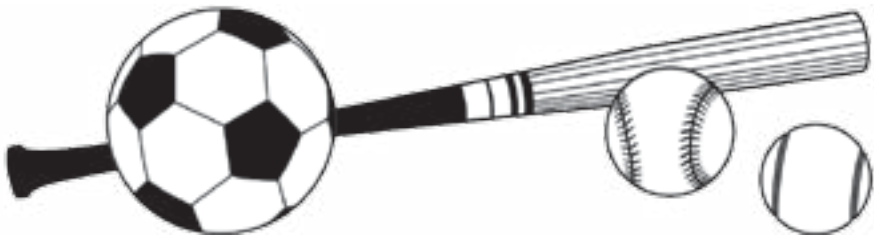
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Youth tournament season April to June

COMPILED BY ANTHONY IOZZO
Unified Newspaper Group

There are plenty of youth spring tournaments this year, some close by and others just a short ride away.
Here are a list of area baseball, basketball, golf, soccer and soft-ball tournaments.



Baseball

- infosports.com/listing.cgi?t=t&s=b&lr=WI
- USSSA Spring Tournament – 14U AA – April 18-19 – Beloit
 - Play for the Trey Open – 10U, 12U – April 25-26 – Whitewater
 - Badgerland Spring Series – 10U-11U – May 2 – Marshall
 - Junior Blackhawk Baseball Classic – 9U-13U – May 9-10 – Fort Atkinson
 - America’s Veterans Are Legends Baseball Tournament – 9U-12U – May 22-24 – East Troy
 - Waunakee Early Season Tournament – 10U-14U – May 23-24
 - Middleton Baseball Diamond Showdown – 10U, 12U – May 30-31
 - Mount Horeb Summer Frolic Tournament – 10U, 12U – June 11-14
 - Stoughton Summer Slam – 11U – June 13-14
 - East Madison Little League Classic – 10U, 14U – June 26-28

Basketball

- wissports.net/eventdirectory
- North American Youth Sports 25th Annual Spring Youth Basketball Tournaments - 5th-8th grade, JV, varsity – April 10, May 29– East Troy High School – Cost: \$155
 - 3rd Annual Columbus Courtside Organization 3 on 3

- Tourney – 5th-8th grade, JV, varsity, adult – April 11 – Columbus High School – Cost: \$60
- THE ROCK Spring Classic Boys National Tournament – 8th grade, HS –April 17 – Sports Enhancement Academy in Verona and Stoughton – Cost: \$400 for one team/\$375 each for 2 teams or more
 - Capitol City Classic – 6th-8th grades, HS – April 24 – Verona Athletic Center – Cost: \$325 for HS; \$295 for MS/ES
 - North American Youth Sports 25th Annual Spring Youth Basketball Tournaments – 5th-8th grades, HS – May 1, June 12 – Madison Area Technical College – Cost: \$155 for May 1; \$250 for June 12
 - 4th Annual “HOOPS 4 A CAUSE” Girls Basketball Tournament – 3rd-8th grades, HS – May 9 – Sports Enhancement Academy in Verona and Stoughton – Cost: \$225

Soccer

- soccer-tournament-guide.com/reddan-spring-shootout.html
- Reddan Spring Shootout – U11-U19 – April 12-14 – Reddan Soccer Park in Verona – Cost: U11-U12 \$400; U13-U14 \$455; U15-U19 \$465
 - Rock Soccer Clash – U10, U12, U14 – April 26-27 – Rock Soccer Club in Janesville – Cost: \$275-300
 - Rush Classic – U9-U19 – April 25-27 – Rush Wisconsin in Middleton – Cost: U9-10 \$360; U11-12 \$505; U13-19 \$550
 - Futbol Frenzy Soccer Tournament – U9-U12 – May 19 – Milton Soccer Club – Cost: U9-10 \$225; U11-12 \$250
 - MAYSA Cup – U9-U14 – May 17-19 – Reddan Soccer Park in Verona – Cost: U9-10 \$255; U11-12 \$270; U13-14 \$300
 - Ace’s Cup 4v4 – U6, U8, U10, U12, U14, Adult – May 23 – Ace Soccer Club in Stoughton – Cost: \$90-120 per team/\$25-40 per individual
 - Reddan Thunder – U11-U19 – May 31 through June 2 – Reddan Soccer Park in Verona – Cost: U11-12 \$380; U13-19 \$445

Golf

- wiscjuniorgolf.com
- WIJrPGA future tour – June 12 – Vitense Golfand
 - WIJrPGA future tour – June 19 – Monona Golf Club
 - WIJrPGA tournament – June 29 – Yahara Golf Club



Photos by Anthony Iozzo

Youth soccer tournaments kick off April 12 and baseball tournaments start April 18..



Softball

- softballtournaments.com/index/id/tourn_find/st/WI
- Play for Trey – Class B – May 2-3 – Starin Park in Whitewater
 - Janesville May Melee – 10U-14U – May 16-17 – JYBSA Sports Complex
 - Spring Fling – Open – June 13-14 – Racetrack Park in Stoughton
 - 12th annual SYS Summer Sizzler – Class A – June 20-21 – Racetrack Park in Stoughton

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Week 4: Lights, Camera, CAPA! Badger Ridge Only
Our Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) team will provide introductions to instruments, dance, and a recording studio visit.
Week 5: Lights, Camera, CAPA! Savanna Oaks Only
Our Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) team will provide introductions to instruments, dance, and a recording studio visit.
Week 5: Game On! Badger Ridge Only
A variety of games from baseball to scrabble with focus on sportsmanship and teamwork.
Week 6: Mind, Body, and Soul - Focuses on healthy food choices, staying active, Soul-building and positive relationships.
Week 7: Explore and More - Bring out the "wild-side" through exploration and a sense of adventure.
Week 8: Celebrating Community - It's time to pay it forward! This service learning week is all about learning to celebrate the community and giving back.
Week 9: Camp Carnival - Snow-cones, games and bounce houses and all things carnival.

Make a splash

Four spots to cool off in summer

BY SAMANTHA CHRISTIAN
Unified Newspaper Group

Wisconsinites wait all winter for warmth, but the spring thaw brings soaring temps that we'll soon want some relief from.

When that time comes, the kids will be ready to jump in the water. Fortunately there are a few places nearby they can check out to cool off and have fun.

New to Fitchburg since 2013 is a nearly 5,000-square-foot splash pad that kids can jump around and play in at McKee Farms Park.

For kids who are looking to get fully submerged and take a swim, Fireman's Park Beach in Verona and Troll Beach (formerly known as Mandt Park Pool and the

Fitchburg Splash Pad

Where: McKee Farms Park, 2930 Chapel Valley Road, Fitchburg

When: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day

Cost: Free

Info: Search for "splash pad" on city.fitchburg.wi.us

Mud Hole) in Stoughton are other options.

If the weather turns rainy or gray, kids can still stop by the indoor Oregon Community Pool, complete with a diving board.

— Mark Ignatowski and Samra Teferra contributed to this compilation



Photo by Samantha Christian

Symone Edwards, 4, plays at the splash pad in Fitchburg last summer.

Troll Beach

Where: 509 Mandt Pkwy., Stoughton

When: Noon to 5 p.m. starting Saturday, June 13

Cost: \$2.75 ages 15 and under, \$3.75 ages 16 and up; \$3.25 non-resident ages 15 and under, \$4.25 non-resident ages 16 and up per day

Info: facebook.com/TrollBeachStoughton



Photo by Mark Ignatowski

Kids play on inflatables at Troll Beach in Stoughton.



Photo by Samantha Christian

Kids play volleyball at the indoor swimming pool in Oregon.

Oregon Community Pool

Where: 249 Brook St., Oregon

When: Daily starting April 6, hours vary

Cost: \$1.50 for kids, \$3 for adults per day

Info: oregonsd.org/pool



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- ...and much more!

www.bethelhorizons.org

adno=399045-01

Fireman's Park Beach

Where: 600 Bruce St., Verona

When: Noon to 6 p.m. June 12 through Aug. 22

Special hours: Open until 7 p.m. June 23 through Aug. 8; open at 9 a.m. Fridays from June 19 through Aug. 7

Cost: \$2 youth, \$3 adult; \$4 youth non-resident, \$5 adult non-resident per day

Info: veronawi.gov/320/firemans-park-beach



Photos by Samantha Christian

Hannah Stubitsch, 13, does a karate kick into the water at the beach in Verona last summer.



Luke Hobson, 4, of Verona, gets an extra push down the slip and slide from his father, Mark, during the Verona Beach Bash.

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adno=400616-01

Reading: Activities held throughout summer

Continued from page 15

contact the Fitchburg Public Library Children’s Department at 729-1762.

Summer Reading Program

The popular annual summer reading program runs from June 12 through Aug. 7. This year’s themes are “Every Hero has a story” for ages 0-5 and 5-11; “Unmask!” for ages 12-17 and “Escape the Ordinary” for adults.

People of all ages can register for the summer reading program and keep track of their reading this summer to receive prizes. For adults, the more books read means more chances to receive a prize.

The summer reading program kicks off with a visit from the Havens Petting Farm from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, June 12. The event (for ages 0-17) will feature pony rides, bunnies, chicks, lambs, goats, calves, alpacas, pigs, ducks and a mini donkey. There will be a variety of music and entertainment programs throughout the summer.

For more information on the summer reading program, call 729-1760 or visit fitchburgwi.gov/library.

Stop the slide

According to a Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) report, numerous studies have shown that children reading during the summer can prevent, or at least diminish reading losses. Four or five read books over the summer can have a “significant impact” for middle school-aged readers, the report said.



Photo by Samantha Christian

Fitchburg Public Library hosted a magician during its summer reading program “Fizz, Boom, Read” last year.

The “summer slide” happens when children who don’t read during summer break fall behind classmates who do. And the effects add up.

“By the end of sixth grade, children who lose reading skills over the summer are two years behind their classmates,” the report read.

The DPI urged families to take advantage of summer programs at public libraries because kids who get involved tend to come back the next year. The program will “help children build reading into their summer routine,” according to the DPI report.

“Free, voluntary reading is essential to helping students become better readers, writers and spellers,” the report read. “Students read more when they can choose materials based on their own interests.”

Summer library programs

The Fitchburg Public Library has announced the following events:

HAVENS PETTING FARM
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Friday, June 12

“TRULY REMARKABLE LOON” – JUGGLING COMEDIAN
2 p.m.
Tuesday, June 23

“SODA PUPS” DOG AGILITY SHOW
2 p.m.
Tuesday, July 7

“TRAVELING LANTERN” – THEATER PRODUCTION OF “THE SWORD IN THE STONE”
2 p.m.
Tuesday, July 23

“HEROES IN THE LIBRARY” WITH STUART STOTTS
2 p.m.
Tuesday, Aug. 4

Concert series

LE GRAN FROMAGE CAJUN BAND
7 p.m.
Thursday, July 2

NO NAME STRING BAND
7 p.m.
Thursday, Aug. 6

Technology: Helpful websites for parents

Continued from page 15

If you’re looking for more of a community-oriented baby-sitting experience online, SittingAround.com provides an option of creating or joining a “co-op” baby-sitting group in your neighborhood. Participants receive and give points for baby-sitting each other’s children. The site also offers more traditional baby sitters that you pay.

App options

If you don’t feel like grabbing your computer and cruising the web, there are also some apps you can get right on your phone to help you capture your children’s precious moments and share them with loved ones.

Tinybeans or iBearBaby, for example, can both be found on the App Store for Apple devices. Tinybeans is also available for Android devices.



Those and similar apps offer a chance to journal, store photos and create albums to share with family through email or by printing.

Take the time to look at the specific features of any app you consider, though, and make sure it’s what you’re looking for.

Helpful tech

BLOGS

- MadisonMamas.com
- MomsInMadison.com

WEBSITES

- dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar
- SittingAround.com

APPS

- iBearBaby
- Tinybeans

Don’t forget to look at the “Education” section on the app store for chances to keep your children interested while also teaching them. They might enjoy the learning even more on a device.

Whatever stage your child is at, remember: there’s an app for that.

Recreation departments offer range of programs

Fitchburg

To view and register for activities:

apm.activecommunities.com/fitchburg/home

Verona

To register for spring and summer programs:

veronawi.gov/recreation

– Samra Teferra

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U12	May 18 & 19	June 10	June 13
U13	May 20 & 21	June 11	June 13
U14	May 20 & 21	June 11	June 13
U15-U18	June 8 & 9	June 12	June 27

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SPORTS

Friday, April 10, 2015

19

The
Fitchburg Star

For more sports coverage, visit:
ConnectFitchburg.com

MWHS Baseball



Photo by Evan Halpop

Madison West senior pitcher Simon Rosenbloom-Larson pitches in the Regents' season opener at Oregon on Thursday, Apr. 2. Rosenbloom-Larson picked up the win for West in an 11-1 contest. He went three innings allowing no runs on one hit and two walks, while striking out five.

Ready to play ball

Offense powers West to two early wins

ANTHONY IOZZO

Assistant sports editor

The Madison West High School baseball season is underway, and the offense, minus a blip against Big Eight rival Verona, is off to a

good start.

The Regents scored 22 runs in wins over Oregon and Milton – both 11-1 victories – to open the season.

With senior captain Rock Cates leading the way, West looks like they are ready to contend in the Big Eight.

“Rock Cates is swinging a hot bat right now, he’s really zoned

in for his senior year,” head coach Ben Greiber said.

Cates isn’t the only Regent batter with key hits to open the season, however. Seniors Declan Calisto, Simon Rosenbloom-Larson, Hank Freyberg and Spencer Bauer; juniors Jack Zukowski, Mark Alesia and Keenan Woltmann and sophomores Tommy Hill and Austin Cotharn have all been in the

starting lineup this season.

Seniors Teddy Cranley, Tony Osterberg, Kyle Kratchmer and Ryan Blythe and juniors Daelon Savage, Cam Porter and Zach Lottes are also on the roster.

West 11, Oregon 1

West scored seven runs in the

Turn to **Baseball/Page 20**

VAHS softball

Keyes goes deep in win over Madison West

JEREMY JONES

Sports editor

Senior Kori Keyes and junior Alyssa Erdman keyed a 12-0 Big Eight Conference and season debut for the Verona Area High School softball team Tuesday evening at Thomas Jefferson Middle School.

Keyes went 3-for-4 with three RBIs in the blowout against Madison West, while Erdman struck out six, walked one and allowed three hits in her debut as the team’s ace.

The Wildcats finished last season with a 22-3 overall record (17-1 conference) en route to their first state appearance since 2010.

Keyes was a big part of Verona’s success last season and she didn’t miss a beat Tuesday.

Following a pop out in the first, Keyes dug in and belted a 0-1 fastball over the center-field fence to spark a decisive 5-run third inning.

“The first pitch was a high strike and the next was an inside fastball. I was able to get my hips and bat through the zone and got the ball up in the air,” Keyes said.



Photo by Jeremy Jonea

Senior captain Kori Keyes (8) celebrates with teammates Tuesday after belting a two-run home run in the third inning. The blast sparked a five-run inning for the Wildcats, who rolled 12-0 over the host Regents.

The ping of the bat and the balls flight trajectory left little doubt.

“(Assistant coach) Michelle (Schreier) told me to ease up around first base,” Keyes said with a smile.

The senior captain wasn’t done, however, adding an RBI single in the fifth.

Erdman matched Keyes, driving in three runs of her own off a pair of

doubles.

It was her arm that caught the attention of everyone around the diamond Tuesday, though.

Erdman, taking over for one of the area’s top pitchers over the last several years in Emma Ray, set the tone early, striking out the side in the first inning.

The Regents struggled with one hit and a walk through three innings.

Erdman and the Wildcats didn’t run into trouble until the fourth inning after an error and a single. Verona second baseman Steph Keryluk helped Erdman out of trouble, though, tagging a runner at second –after Erdman induced a groundball – and then throwing over to first baseman Sara Endres for a double play.

“The first inning was a huge confidence builder for Alyssa and it was big for me,” head coach Todd Anderson said. “Anytime you have someone taking over for someone like an Emma Ryan you have concerns.”

Unlike in years past though, this isn’t a one pitcher team either as freshman Emma Kleinsek sat West down in order in the fifth for the 10-run rule victory.

“You don’t know what other teams may have coming into their program, but from what I’ve seen in practice, I know these girls want to repeat as conference champions and I know they have the talent to deliver,” Anderson said.

Verona travels to Florida for three doubles headers Saturday, Monday and Tuesday.

OHS girls soccer

Oregon shuts out West in opener

ANTHONY IOZZO

Assistant sports editor

The Oregon High School girls soccer team started the 2015 season Tuesday with a 3-0 win over Madison West.

Senior midfielder Kelsey Jahn and junior forwards Makenna Fanning and Jen Brien each scored a goal for the Panthers.

Senior defender Brenna Peterson, junior defender Jess Jacobs and Fanning all added assists.

Sophomore goalie Abby Breitbach finished with three saves.

Oregon hosts Burlington at 7 p.m. Thursday, and it travels to Middleton High School at 10 a.m. Saturday for a quad with the Cardinals, Kimberly and Appleton North.

The Panthers travel to non-conference Madison La Follette at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 14.

Oregon 5, Fairhope (Ala.) 1

The Panthers traveled to play Fairhope (Ala.) on March 31, in a game that doesn’t count toward their Wisconsin record, and won 5-1.

Fanning scored twice, while Jahn and Brien each added a goal. Junior midfielder Taylor Martin, Jahn and Fanning all had assists.

Breitbach had three saves and allowed one goal.

MWHS track & field

Boys take eighth at West Relays

ANTHONY IOZZO

Assistant sports editor

Senior Olin Hacker led the Madison West High School boys track team at the Madison West Relays April 4 at the Camp Randall Sports Complex at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Hacker took first in the 3,200-meter run in 9 minutes, 9.82 seconds, nearly 18 second faster than second-place finisher (Middleton) Gus Newcomb (9:37.77).

Senior Jack Wellenstein also medaled with a second-place finish in the 400-meter dash in 49.74. Oak Creek junior Caleb Ogden too first in 48.75. Both runners broke the meet record of 50.13 set in

Turn to **West relays/Page 20**

West relays: 4x800 takes first

Continued from page 19

1990 by Norris Williams (Marquette). The 4x800 relay (seniors Izak Oltman, Kyle Kolar, Will Olson and Hacker) took first in 8:19.52, and the 4x400 relay (junior Tevan Einsteing, Wellenstein, Olson and Kolar) finished seventh in 3:42.65. Senior Kaleb Wilson rounded out the points with an eighth-place finish (4:40.54) in the 800-meter run. West finished eighth overall with 31 points. Stevens Point won the meet with 66 points, while D.C. Everest (57 1/3) and Middleton (51 1/2) took second and third, respectively.

West girls second at city meet

The Madison West High School girls track and field team took second overall

with 69 points on March 28 in the indoor city meet at the UW-Madison Shell. Junior Ruth Cesar-Heymann was first in the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 9.65. She also took third in the long jump with a distance of 16 feet 2 3/4 inches. Senior Ellie Degen (11:44.69) and freshman Isabelle Bartholomew (12:12.27) took first and second, respectively, in the 3,200 run. Sophomore Kate Hettenbach added a first in the 400-meter dash in 1:04.10. Senior Jana Hrovat took third in 1:06.35. Senior Paige Talerico (2:36.30) and sophomore Sarah Brophy (2:36.40) took second and third in the 800. Freshman Vivian Hacker took third in the 1600 in 5:43.42. Madison Memorial won the meet with 87 points.

Baseball: Regents crush Milton

Continued from page 19

top of the third, all coming with two outs and all unearned, en route to an 11-1 win at non-conference Oregon in five innings on April 2. After Oregon senior Luke Mueller walked Rosenbloom-Larsen, Mueller picked up two quick outs. A good throw by center fielder Chris McGuine kept a run from scoring on the second out, but a throwing error on Pat Sommers from third base to first on what would have been the third out started a West rally.

Mueller gave up an RBI single to Hill, an RBI single to Callisto, a 2-run double to Cates and an RBI single to Rosenbloom-Larson before being pulled for reliever Jake Odegard. West added another run in the top of the fifth with an RBI by Freyberg, who grounded out into a double-play, scoring Cates. The Regents scored three times in the first inning. Rosenbloom-Larson picked up an RBI double, and Hill added a 2-run single. Rosenbloom-Larson struck out five Panthers in three shutout innings to pick up the win. He walked two and allowed one hit. Hank Freyberg pitched the final two innings and struck out three Panthers. He allowed a run on one hit, a hit batsman and a walk. Mueller took the loss for Oregon. He pitched 2 2/3 innings and allowed three earned runs on seven hits. He walked five.

Zukowski and Savage had RBI doubles. **Verona 5, West 0** West's offense hit a road-block April 7 in a 5-0 loss to Verona in the Big Eight Conference opener at Mansfield Stadium. The team did not execute as well as the first two games, Greiber said. "(Verona junior Keaton Knueppel) showed why he was one of the top pitchers in the Big Eight conference," Greiber said. "He did a great job on mixing up his pitches and keeping our hitters guessing." West hosted Madison East Thursday, but results did not meet the Star's Wednesday deadline. The Regents host Portage at noon Saturday and travel to Madison La Follette at 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 14. West goes to Sun Prairie at 5 p.m. Thursday, April 16, and it hosts Madison Memorial at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 18. The Regents travel to Beloit Memorial at 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, at State-line Youth Complex, and they host Middleton at 5 p.m. Thursday, April 23. West hosts Monona Grove at 5 p.m. Friday, April 24, and Janesville Craig at 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 28. The Regents close the month at Janesville Parker at 5 p.m. Thursday, April 30, at Janesville Youth Sport Complex.

West 11, Milton 1

West won its home opener 11-1 against Milton at Mansfield Stadium on April 4 afternoon. The Regents took control in the fourth inning by scoring eight runs. West tallied three in the first inning. "Cates and Porter did a great job throwing strikes and getting outs," Greiber said. Cotharn and Callisto had two hits a piece, while



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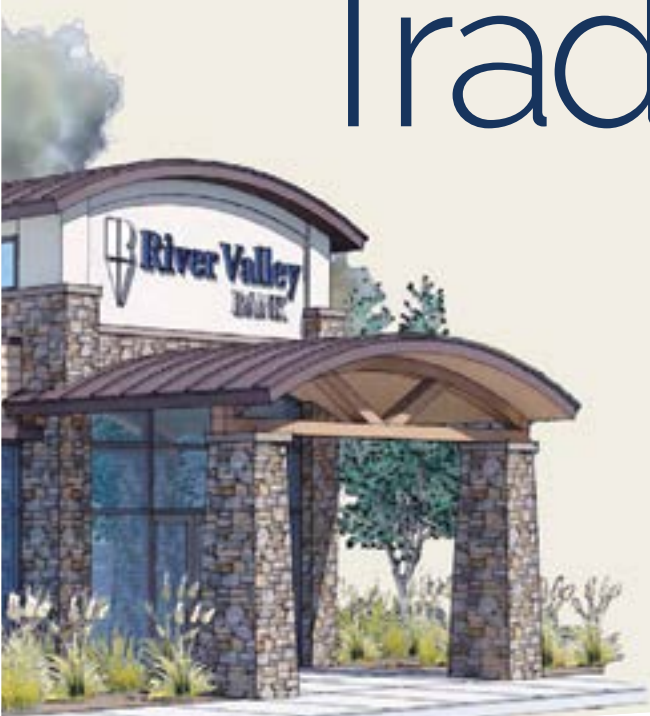


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Softball

Panthers start season against top competition

JEREMY JONES
Sports editor

In the midst of developing a young program, the Oregon softball faced the Division 2 state runner-up and the Badger South Conference champions before earning the team’s first win of the season last week.

New London 7,
Oregon 0 (5 inn.)

The Panthers opened the season against New London, which won the Division 2 state title two years ago and finished runner-up last season.

Part of a four-team tournament held in McFarland, five innings Saturday was all the team would see.

A young team comprised of mainly underclassmen, Oregon found itself in a big hole early, allowing seven runs on four errors in the first inning.

“It wasn’t a shock to give up a big inning like that right out of the game,” Panthers head coach Michael Derrick said. “We haven’t even made it outside to practice so far this spring, so facing a team like New London in the first game was a big challenge.”

Twenty-nine degrees at the time of the first pitch with a predicted high in the upper 30s, Derrick said field conditions began to degrade rapidly as the ground warmed.

“We had a lined drive hit toward our second basemen which just hit the ground and stuck in the mud,” he said.

The conditions eventually forced the game, and tournament to be called after just five innings.

“All-in-all with the conditions and competition we faced, I thought we played pretty well,” Derrick said.

Oregon moved runners into scoring position twice in the second inning, but was unable to drive them home.

Sophomore pitcher Lacy Fluckiger allowed four earned runs on three walks in five innings. She struck out three.

Fellow sophomore Julia Schmidt finished the game 2-for-2 to pace the Panthers, while the lone senior on the team, Sara Anderson, was 1-for-2.

Weather forced the Panthers to cancel their March 26 game against Parkview and the team’s March 28 showdown with McFarland, which advanced to the Division 2 state semifinal round last year, and Adams-Friendship.

Monroe 9, Oregon 3

Oregon opened the conference season three days later on the road March 31 at Monroe’s Twining Park against the defending conference champion Cheesemakers and looked much more competitive.

Though the Panthers lost 9-3, Oregon struck for three runs in the fourth for the early lead before Monroe stormed back with nine runs in the home half of the sixth.

“The wheels kind of fell off in the sixth with such a young

team, learning their positions,” Derrick said.

Oregon committed five errors in the decisive inning as Fluckiger allowed three earned runs, walking four and striking out two. She gave up 10 hits.

Junior Quincey Newton went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead the team, while Mackenzie Kressin finished 1-for-3.

Oregon 5, Edgewood 4

The Panthers evened their conference record with a one-run victory on April 2 over the host Madison Edgewood Crusaders at Goodman Softball Complex.

Oregon found itself down twice, but fought back to knock off Edgewood 5-4.

The Crusaders led off the sixth with a double and then regained the lead for the second time with an RBI single from their lead-off hitter.

Gratz reached base on a error to lead things off before being doubled home by Schmidt, who later scored the game-winning run on Kressin’s game-winning single back up the middle.

A back-and-forth game the entire way, Edgewood took a 3-0 lead in the third inning thanks to a triple, single and home run before Oregon sophomore Jayme Zander drove in a run in the fourth and fellow sophomore Jenna Gratz singled home another in the fifth. A passed ball allowed the Panthers to tie the score.

“We’re starting the season off against a quality stretch of opponents,” Derrick said. “So far we’ve had a number of girls stepping up to get us headed in the right direction.”

MG 11, Oregon 0 (5 inn.)

Although the temperature at game time was listed as an optimistic 48 degrees Tuesday, a gradually increasing wind steadily chilled the Panthers en route to an 11-0 loss at home against Monona Grove.

Meanwhile, the Silver Eagles, who brought their own heater, came out red hot.

Monona Grove loaded the bases with three straight singles in the top of the first inning before a Panther error allowed two runs to cross the plate. Alexis Killerlain then singled home a run and Jordan Houghton doubled in another, while Carly Patterson hit a sac fly en route to a five-run first.

The Silver Eagles got production out of the top of its lineup all night as Bre Feiler (2-for-4), Cassidy Gerothernas (3-for-4) and Natallie Mikalsen (3-for-4) combined to got 8-for-12, knocking in one run a piece.

Monona Grove sophomore Autumn Lesniak walked four, but finished the game with five strikeouts. Oregon avoided being no-hit with a Jenna Gratz infield single with two outs in the bottom of the fifth.

Fluckiger allowed five earned runs on 13 hits and one walk.

Baseball

Panthers go cold in 10-run loss to West

ANTHONY IOZZO
Assistant sports editor

After dropping a heart-breaker to Beloit Memorial the game before, the Oregon High School baseball team struggled to put the bat on the ball April 2 against Madison West.

The Panthers fell 11-1 in five innings with the only run coming from an RBI double by senior Mitch Weber in the bottom of the fourth, scoring senior Luke Mueller.

That hit was Weber’s second of the game, the only hits Oregon was able to get in the loss.

Head coach Jake Soule said despite the tough opening to the season, the Panthers remain positive in a season that is expected to have some growing pains with only two starters back from 2014.

“I knew we weren’t going to come out of the gates steaming,” Soule said. “I didn’t anticipate this, but we are young. And we are just going to improve. They are a committed group of kids, but they understand that we didn’t even start conference yet.

“They are excited to get that going, so we are moving on at this point.”

Oregon did load the bases in the bottom of the second after a Weber single and walks to Pat Sommers and Ben Weiland. But West pitcher Simon Rosenbloom-Larson struck out the side.

Rosenbloom-Larson struck out five Panthers in three shutout innings to pick up the win. He walked two and allowed one hit.

Hank Freyberg pitched the final two innings and struck out three Panthers. He allowed a run on one hit, a hit batsman and a walk.



Photo by Anthony Iozzo

Senior Luke Mueller zips a fastball in the first inning Thursday in a non-conference game against Madison West at Oregon High School. The Panthers fell 11-1 in five innings.

West scored seven runs in the top of the third, all coming with two outs and all unearned.

After Mueller walked Rosenbloom-Larsen, he picked up two outs.

A good throw by center fielder Chris McGuine kept a run from scoring, but a throwing error on Sommers from third base to first on what would have been the third out started a West rally.

Mueller gave up an RBI single to Tommy Hill, an RBI single to Declan Callisto, a 2-run double to Rock Cates and an RBI single to Rosenbloom-Larson before being pulled for reliever Jake Odegard.

West added another run in the top of the fifth with an RBI by Freyberg, who grounded out into a double-play, scoring Cates.

The Regents scored three times in the first inning. Rosenbloom-Larson picked up an RBI double, and Hill added a 2-run single.

Mueller took the loss for Oregon. He pitched 2 2/3

innings and allowed three earned runs on seven hits. He walked five.

“The shock of the difference from playing from JV to varsity, I think they have seen that the last two days,” Soule said. “I think we are going to build from these. We are going to be able to draw from it when we are playing a team like Stoughton with guys that can throw in the high 80s. We have seen it before, so it won’t be something new.”

Oregon hosts Baraboo at 5 p.m. Thursday and travels to Sauk Prairie for a double-header at 11 a.m. Saturday.

The Panthers also travel to Waunakee at 5 p.m. Monday and travel to Milton at 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Beloit 9, Oregon 8

The Panthers opened the season with a 9-8 loss to Beloit Memorial last Wednesday.

Parker DeBroux (2-for-4), McGuine (2-for-3) and Mueller (2-for-3) led the offense. DeBroux picked up two RBIs, while Andrew Pliner,

Zach Klementz, Mason Sergeant and McGuine all added RBIs.

Weber started and picked up a no decision. He allowed two earned runs on two hits in three innings. He struck out four and walked three.

Odegard took the loss. He allowed two earned runs on two hits and a walk in two innings.

Oregon 10, MG 2

Oregon traveled to Cottage Grove on Tuesday to take on Monona Grove in the Badger South opener and cruised to the Panthers’ first win, 10-2.

The offense came alive for eight runs in the final three innings. Both of the Silver Eagles’ tallies came in the bottom of the seventh.

Weber struck out six in seven innings and walked one in the victory. He allowed two runs on two hits.

Andrew Pliner was 2-for-3 with two runs scored, and Mueller added a 3-run double. DeBroux was 2-for-4.

Jared Jones picked up his first career varsity hit.

Track and field

Depth shows en route to invite title

JEREMY JONES
Sports editor

Oregon boys track and field won the Tri-State Invitational at UW-Platteville for the first time in school history on March 28.

The Panthers won three individual events in the large school division Saturday and scored in 10 of 15 to pace the nine-team field with 113 points. Freeport (97) and Sun Prairie (95.5) rounded out the top three schools.

Senior Brenen Womack started off the evening winning the prelims and then dropped two hundredths of a second in the finals to take the 55-meter dash in 6.84 seconds.

Oregon racked up 18 points total in the event as junior Lucas Mathews added five more for fourth place and senior Peter Kissling chipped with three for his sixth-place finish.

Womack later finished fourth in the 200 free (24.77), three-hundredths of a second ahead of Mathews.

Continuing to excel in the sprints, Kissling and Mathews joined seniors Brennen Deegan and Josh Sromovsky to finish third in the 4x200 relay in 1:39.6.

“Just like last year, we are a very well-rounded team,” Oregon head coach Ned Lease said. “We have a lot of returners, so we have kind of been able to jump right into practice. To win it the way we did, without returners like Alex Duff, Josh Christensen and Ben Vogt in the distance events was really good.”

Still recovering from an off-season injury, senior John Hermus went from fourth in prelims to winning the 55-meter hurdles Saturday, dropping .24 seconds in the process. He posted a time of 8.22 to claim the title over Freeport junior David Rials.

A state qualifying pole vaulter last year, Hermus added a fourth-place finish with a clearance of 9 feet.

Sophomore Logan Meier and Mathews showed the Panthers have plenty of potential in the high jump as well, finishing 1-2 with a height of 5-6. Meier got the edge based on attempts.

Kissling added a runner-up finish in the long jump, reaching 19-7.

Junior Jonas Temte reached the 400-meter run finish line in third place (57.34), but he wasn’t alone as fellow junior Sam Anders and sophomore Logan Meier placed fifth and sixth, respectively.

Temte joined Hermus, Deegan and junior Chris Cutter to post a fifth-place finish on the 4x400 relay (3:55.36).

Sophomore Hudson Kugel led the way for Oregon in the 800, finishing one spot ahead of junior Chris Cutter in sixth place with his time of 2:13.26.

LeBrun. Jackson make statements at Tri-state

From the cross country course to the track, junior Maddie LeBrun has already made a name for herself in the Badger South Conference. After a ninth-place finish at the WIAA Division 1 state

meet a year ago, the expectations for LeBrun have only continued to grow this offseason.

On March 28 in the large school division of the Tri-State Invitational in Platteville she showed she is more than capable of living up to the lofty goals. LeBrun dominated the 400-meter dash by more than two-and-a-half seconds in 1:01.62. LeBrun then tied for fourth place in the pole vault with a clearance of 7 feet.

“Maddie has high expectations of herself, that is no secret. The secret to achieving anything of note is also no secret at all. Hard work, persistence, and performance when the gun goes off are all needed to achieve a spot on the podium at the state meet,” Panthers head coach Ned Lease said. “Maddie has shown great preparation and persistence in the off season, and so far she has shown great poise in leadership and performance.”

Alexis Jackson wasted no time in making a statement. The freshman won the 55-meter hurdles by two-tenths of a second over Stoughton senior Alexa Deutsch in 9.25 and then finished runner-up to Freeport senior Janelle Jackson in the 200-meter dash with a time of 29.16.

“Alexis showed great poise Saturday as a freshman amidst varsity competition. She is a very talented young athlete who is eager to learn her events and do well for herself and her team,” Lease said. It’s always nice to see those kinds of combinations in a young athlete.”

Track and field

Boys 10th
at West
Relays

JEREMY JONES
Sports editor

Sophomore Jack Herkert finished a team-best third overall based on attempts in the high jump competition April 4 at the Madison West Relays inside the Camp Randall Sports Complex.

Herkert and Mukwonago sophomore Zach Dybul both cleared 6 feet with the Verona underclassmen taking third based on attempts.

Menomonee Falls junior Darren Murray meanwhile won the event by reaching 6-2.

The Wildcats went on to finish 10th overall as a team, scoring points in six of 15 events.

“West Relays has a number of the top teams in the state, so every event was very competitive. In the high jump, Jack Herkert proved he is ready to jump among the best in the state,” VAHS head coach Joff Pedretti said. “No stage is too big for him.”

Verona senior Cameron Tindall moved up from seventh in the preliminaries to finish fourth overall in the 55-meter dash with a time of 6.70 seconds, while Stevens Point junior Victor Kizewski (6.66) took home top honors.

Verona’s other sprint relay of Austin Schwartz, Parks, Auman and Jared Biddle finished 11th overall (46.99), missing a medal by three spots.

The Wildcats did add another relay medal though despite missing their top distance runner (Ryan Nameth) as senior Colin Bass, junior Brady Traeder, sophomore T.J. Manning and freshman Peter Barger took sixth place in the 4x800 in 8:45.79.

Olson medals at WTFA
meet for girls

Sophomore Kailey Olson continued her strong start to the 2015 season, medaling at the April 4 WTFA State Indoor Championships at UW-Whitewater.

Billed as the state indoor meet, competitors had to meet a 4-foot, 10-inch qualifying standard in each event to compete.

That was no problem for Olson, who was the sole girl for the Verona Area High School girls track and field to medal, taking seventh place with a clearance of 5-2 in the high jump.

“Kailey has had a great start to the season,” Wildcat head coach Mark Happel said. “Her timing was a little off Saturday, so we were thrilled to see her clear 5-2. I think she learned a lot about herself Saturday.”

The Wildcats’ 4x200 meter relay of senior Shannon Kerrigan, freshman Emily Lichty, junior Cheyenne Trilling and sophomore Sie’нна Mitchell came the next closest to medaling, placing 10th overall in 1 minute, 52.46 seconds.

Kerrigan posted a lifetime best (7.67) as she and Mitchell (7.74) both made the 55-meter dash semifinals, but fell short of the finals.

Boys lacrosse



Photo by Anthony Iozzo

Freshman attacker Graham Sticha (11) celebrates with freshman midfielder Ian Edwards (4), senior attacker Trey Kazda (left) and sophomore midfielder Patrick Stigsell after the first of three goals Tuesday against Oregon. The Wildcats won 19-0.

Cats roll in home opener

Verona knocks off Oregon
19-0 for first win of the
season on Tuesday

ANTHONY IOZZO
Assistant sports editor

The weather might have been cold April 7 at Connor Field, but the Verona Area High School boys lacrosse team wasn’t.

The Wildcats piled up the goals in a 19-0 win over Oregon to open the Madison Area Lacrosse Association season.

Verona scored nine times in the second quarter after grabbing a 5-0 lead in the first.

Senior captain attacker Trey

Kazda and sophomore midfielder Jake Keyes each scored twice in the second. Kazda assisted on Keyes’ second goal, while sophomore midfielder Pat Stigsell assisted on Keyes’ first goal in the second.

Kazda added three more assists in the second on goals by junior midfielder Dom Sabbarese, freshman attacker Graham Sticha and Stigsell.

Sophomore midfielder Jack Scott and freshman midfielder Ian Edwards also scored goals in the second, with an assist to junior midfielder Brycen Smith on the Edwards’ goal.

Sticha, Edwards and Sabbarese all scored in the third quarter to

make it 17-0 Verona.

Junior captain midfielder Josh Novotny had two assists in the third, while senior midfielder Nolan Fink had the other assist on the Edwards’ goal.

Stigsell and Scott each scored goals in the fourth quarter.

Senior midfielder Josh Ducommun, Kazda, Sticha, Sabbarese and Keyes all scored goals in the first quarter.

Kazda had two assists in the first, while Keyes and Sabbarese each had one assist in the first.

Oregon had a few opportunities, but the Panthers weren’t able to get a shot on goal all game.

Verona continues the season at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 14, at Kettle

Moraine. The Wildcats remain on the road at 5 p.m. Thursday, April 16, against Janesville Craig at Optimist Park and at 5 p.m. Monday, April 20, against Sun Prairie at Cardinal Heights Middle School.

Naperville (Ill.) 11, Verona 4

The Wildcats opened the season against Naperville (Ill.) Central on April 3 and fell 11-4.

Naperville led 4-0 after one and 7-3 at halftime.

Keyes picked up three goals, while Kazda added the fourth. Edwards collected two assists, and Novotny picked up one.

Verona had 10 shots on goal in the loss, while junior Alex Jones finished with four saves.

Baseball

Knueppel K’s 12 in Big Eight Conference opener against West

ANTHONY IOZZO
Assistant sports editor

Verona Area High School junior Keaton Knueppel helped move the Wildcats’ baseball team to 4-0 in the Big Eight Conference opener April 7 at Madison West.

Knueppel struck out 12 and only allowed a hit and a walk in a complete-game shutout.

Stephen Lund was the leading hitter. He went 2-for-3 with a double, a run scored and an RBI.

Knueppel added a double and a run scored, and junior Ben Rortvedt picked up a double and an RBI.

Senior Connor Volker and junior Sam Favour also had RBIs.

West senior Simon Rosenbloom-Larson took the loss. He allowed three earned runs on nine hits, striking out eight and

walking one.

Verona hosts Middleton at 5 p.m. Thursday and Janesville Craig at 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 14.

Verona 13, Milton 2

The Wildcats scored 10 times in the final two innings to open the season Thursday with a 13-2 win at Milton.

Senior David Rogowski had a double, three RBIs and two runs scored, while Volker (3-for-4, double) and Knueppel each collected two RBIs.

Favour was 2-for-4 with a double and an RBI. Stephen Lund picked up a double and three runs scored. Brodie Roehrig, Evan Fernandez, Jason Frahm and Tyler McClure all added RBIs.

Knueppel did the rest on the mound, allowing a run on one hit and two walks in five innings. He added seven strikeouts. Volker

pitched the final two innings, and he allowed a run on two hits and two walks, striking out one.

Milton’s Tommy Wecker took the loss. He allowed two earned runs on three hits in four innings. Wecker struck out one.

Kaukauna doubleheader

Verona hosted Kaukauna Saturday in a doubleheader and won 11-8 and 9-6.

The Wildcats scored seven runs in the first two innings of the first game and added four in the fourth.

Knueppel was 3-for-4 with a double, three runs scored and three RBIs, and junior Ben Rortvedt was 3-for-4 with three RBIs. Volker added a double and a run scored, and Lund, Roehrig, McClure and Frahm added RBIs.

Senior Jake Toman picked up the win. He allowed one earned run on six hits in five innings.

Toman walked one and struck out two. Lund picked up the save. He struck out one in 2/3 of an inning.

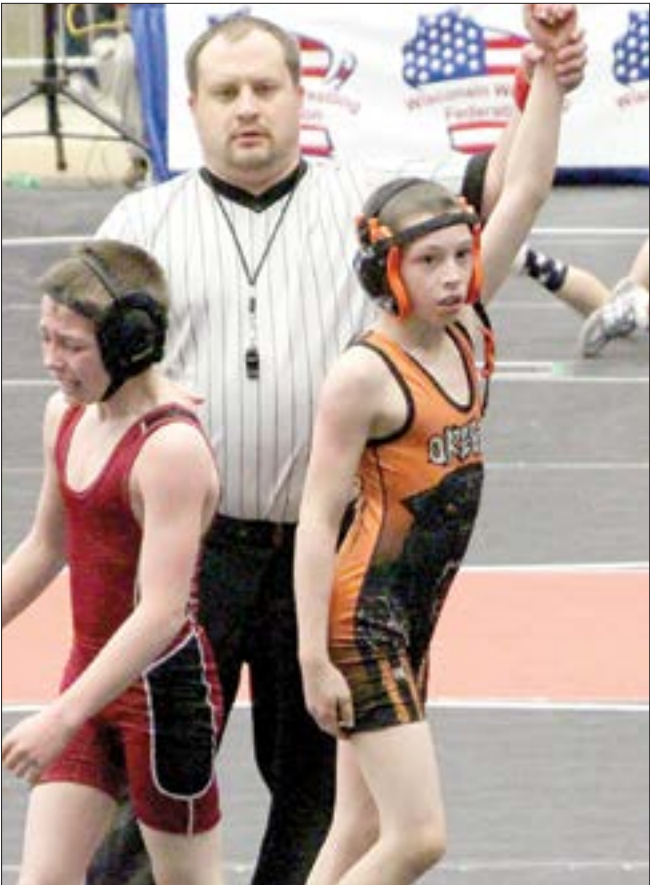
Andrew Handrich took the loss for Kaukauna. He allowed 10 earned runs on eight hits in three innings. He walked three and struck out two.

In the second game, Verona scored nine runs in the second inning and held off a late rally by Kaukauna.

Toman led the way on offense. He was 2-for-3 with a double, a run scored and four RBIs.

Lund was 3-for-3 with a double and a run scored, and Rortvedt was 2-for-4 with an RBI. Knueppel added a double and an RBI. Favour and Roehrig added RBIs.

Brad Laufenberg was the winner. He allowed two earned runs on four hits in five innings, striking out five and walking two. Lund picked up the save.



Michael Schliem wins a match at Saturday's WWF Kids Folkstyle State championship at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. Schliem took fifth overall at 81 pounds.

Youth wrestling

Schliem medals at first state meet

JEREMY JONES
Sports editor

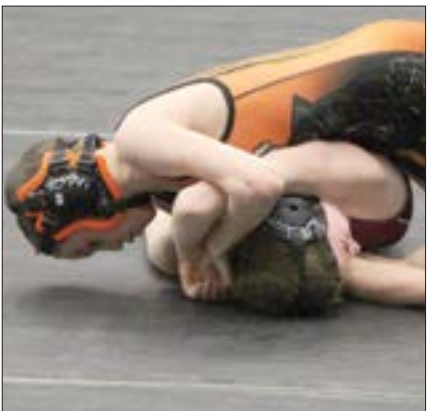
Though he admits to lollygagging in practice at times last year, Oregon youth wrestler Michael Schliem found the focus needed to medal at the WWF Kids Folkstyle State championship on March 28.

One of eight Oregon Youth Wrestling club athletes to qualify for the state meet, Schliem was the only one to place, finishing in the top six of his 15-man bracket at the Alliant Energy Center.

Schliem won his first match 5-3 before falling to the eventual champion 3-0 at 81 pounds in the quarterfinals. He wrestled back to finish fifth.

"I really decided to put in more effort and focus on the mental part. This year I felt like I had no choice but to make it to state," he said. "I wasn't about to let myself not make it. To be able to go to state and medal, it felt great. It was an awesome opportunity."

Getting his start as a kindergartner, Schliem has wrestled for the last six years.



Michael Schliem goes for a near fall Saturday.

"I had never tried it before. I just wanted to know how it felt," he said. "I liked the feeling of working out and getting stronger. You feel so fresh and relaxed the next day after beating someone who is really good."

Needing to finish in the top two at regionals to reach the state tournament, Schliem improved upon a pair of fourth-place finishes the past two seasons to reach state for the first time.

"Some days I almost felt myself getting better. My coaches also noticed me getting better and working harder to be a leader and teach the younger kids," he said.

Oregon Youth Wrestling coach Chad Niday said the youth club had 60 kids competing between kindergarten and eighth grade this season with the majority on the younger end.

"Over the next few years we're hoping of have a stable of kids throughout the grades, which can become a pipeline into the high school program. That's the point of the youth program," Niday said. "Last year we had about half of the kids leaving join the high school program. There were several that were just trying the sport out and didn't go on."

Schliem, who chose wrestling over basketball this year, said though it's still four years away, he definitely plans to stick with the sport in high school and hopes others will follow suit.

"You only get better with experience," he said. "I'd like to bring more people in and then carry it onto high school."

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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- Kitchen & Café
- Greeter



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- **Skill Evaluation - April 19**
Where: Verona Area High School Gym
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WWW.VAGSA.ORG

adno=403123-01

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2015 FITCHBURG SPRING CLEANING EVENTS

Clean Sweep, Shred Day, Electronics Recycling, and Med Drop Saturday, May 9, 2015, from 8:00am-11:00am

Fitchburg's first ever local **Clean Sweep** event will be held at the Fitchburg Public Works Maintenance Facility, 2373 S. Fish Hatchery Rd. Household hazardous waste will be collected and disposed in partnership with Dane County Clean Sweep for this one time event. There is a \$10 charge per car. Items accepted include: Pesticides & Poisons; Oil-based Paints; and Household Products containing Solvents, Ignitables, and Aerosols. Please note: Latex Paint will not be accepted at this event. Please contact Rick Eilertson, Environmental Engineer, at rick.eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov, 270-4264, with any questions about the Clean Sweep Event.

Shred Day will be held behind Oak Bank (5951 McKee Road) at the corner of Executive & Marketplace Drives. Look for Pellitteri's Shred Truck in the parking lot. This event provides shredding to destroy your confidential paper documents. Up to 5 bankers boxes of confidential paper documents can be shredded and recycled FREE of cost. Please contact Jeff Potter, Pellitteri Waste Systems at 257-6232 ext 323, jeffp@pellitteri.com or Felipe Avila, Engineering/GIS Specialist at felipe.avila@fitchburgwi.gov, 270-4277, with any questions about the Shred Day Event.

Electronics Recycling will be held at Surplus-IT's warehouse (901 Watson Avenue). Look for directional signage from the intersection of Fish Hatchery Road and Greenway Cross heading to the east. Please contact Lee Shinefield (Surplus-IT) at lee@surplus-IT.com, 209-8000



or Felipe Avila, Engineering/GIS Specialist at felipe.avila@fitchburgwi.gov, 270-4277, with any questions about the Electronics Recycling Event.

Items Accepted:

Free!: Computers, LCD (Flat panel liquid crystal display) Monitors, Printers, Stereo Equipment, Media (cdfs, dvds, floppy disks, magnetic tape, etc.), lead acid batteries, Styrofoam Packing Peanuts

\$0.25/lb Charge: VCR & Cassette Tape, Alkaline Batteries

\$5 Charge: Microwaves, other Kitchen Electronics

\$15 Charge: All CRT (Cathode Ray Tube) Monitors

\$25 Charge: TVs less than 27", Refrigerators, Dehumidifiers, Air Conditioners

\$35 Charge: TVs 27" or larger (console TV's may cost more for disposal)

Med Drop will be held at the Fitchburg Police Department, west entrance to City Hall, 5520 Lacy Rd. Empty pills into a clear plastic bag and recycle the containers at home. Any liquids, gels, creams, etc. should be left in the original container and placed in a clear plastic bag. No sharps, or lancets will be accepted. Please contact Rick Eilertson, Environmental Engineer, at rick.eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov, 270-4264, with any questions about the Med Drop Event.

Idling Reduction signage will be posted at each event to remind drivers to turn off their engine while waiting more than 10 seconds.

Information about other options for recycling may be found in Fitchburg's 2015 Recycling Guide, on Fitchburg's web page at: www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste. Hard copies are available in the lobby of Fitchburg City Hall.



REDUCING VOLUNTARY VEHICLE IDLING SAVES GAS, MONEY AND AIR POLLUTION



The next time you find yourself waiting at school to pick up kids or are backed up in a long line at the drive-through window, please remember to turn off your engine. You'll save money by reducing your gasoline costs and wear and tear on your engine. At the same time you'll be helping everyone breathe a little easier by reducing air pollution. That's why Fitchburg is asking people to turn off their engines when waiting more than 10 seconds.

Idling engines do not run at optimum operating temperatures, resulting in incomplete combustion and more air pollution. Americans waste nearly 3.8 million gallons of gasoline each day by idling their cars! For every gallon of gasoline used, a vehicle emits an average of 20 lbs. of carbon dioxide (CO₂), which translates to 13 million tons of CO₂ annually from idling! (Diesel engines emit 15% more CO₂/gallon than gasoline engines.)

Other pollutants from vehicle exhaust mix with sunlight to form ground-level ozone, a major component of smog. These pollutants linger in the environment and lead to long-term health problems especially for our most

vulnerable populations like young kids, older adults and people with asthma.

Studies have shown that idling for more than 10 seconds uses more gasoline and produces more CO₂ emissions than restarting your engine. One common myth is that restarting the engine causes greater engine wear and tear, but the reality is that restarting your engine causes less. If it looks like you'll be idling for longer than 10 seconds (30 seconds for diesel), please turn off your engine, and restart it when you're ready to drive.

Signs are posted around Fitchburg at businesses, schools and municipal buildings, parks and special events reminding people to turn off their engines when waiting more than 10 seconds.

This Spring, Fitchburg's Resource Conservation Commission will be making outdoor metal signs available for any Fitchburg business to purchase. These outdoor metal signs are great reminders for people to turn off their engines in parking lots and drop-off or drive-through locations. Participating businesses can also receive idling reduction posters and brochures made by Leopold Elementary students.

Thanks to those organizations who are already participating in Fitchburg's Idling Reduction Campaign. For more information or to purchase a sign, please contact: Erika Klutmeier at 270-4274 or erika.klutmeier@fitchburgwi.gov.



Photo by Samantha Christian

Coffee with a Cop

Some officers with the Fitchburg Police Department spent a few hours at McDonald's on Fish Hatchery Road to talk with people from the community on Saturday, March 14. Above, officer Kelly Jacobson speaks with the Rev. Rex Wegner, a semi-retired pastor with Evangel Life Center.

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FITCHBURG RECREATION SUMMER PROGRAMS ARE OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

All Summer Programs are now open for registration. Visit www.fitchburgwi.gov/recreation and click on the "View Programs" button to view and register for programs. You can also register by calling the Recreation Office at 608-270-4285 or visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fitchrec

Girls Softball – 8 to 10 yr. old

Teams will practice once a week and compete against local communities playing both home and away games. Players will receive a t-shirt and a visor. Softball pants/shorts must be purchased separately.

Dates/Times - Monday and Wednesday evenings, end of May to end of July

Location - Tower Hill and Travelling

Ages - 8 to 10 years old

Fee - \$40



Girls Softball – 11 & 12 yr. old

Teams will practice once a week and compete against local communities playing both home and away games. Players will receive a t-shirt and a visor. Softball pants/shorts must be purchased separately.

Dates/Times - Tuesday and Thursday evenings, end of May to end of July

Location - Tower Hill and Travelling

Ages - 11 & 12 years old

Fee - \$50

Adventure Camps

There are eight of these one week camps throughout the summer. Each week will feature a new theme like: Messy Olympics, Superhero Academy, Frozen in July, and more. Camps will include activities, free play, arts, crafts, sports and role playing. The first camp starts June 16th.

Days/Times - Tuesday and Thursday Mornings, 9:30am-11:30am

Location - McKee Farms Park

Ages - 4-6 years old

Fee - \$20R/\$25NR

Half-Day Camps

There are eight of these one week camps throughout the summer. Each week will feature a new theme like: Scout Days, H2WOW, Sportacular, and more. Camps will include activities, free play, arts, crafts, sports and role playing. The first camp starts June 15th.

Days/Times - Monday-Thursday afternoons, 1:00pm-4:00pm

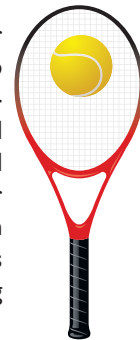
Location - McKee Farms Park

Ages - 7-12 years old

Fee - \$50R/\$60NR

Tennis Lessons

We have tennis lessons for ages 4-5 all the way up to 13-16 years old. Tennis lessons are on Mondays and Wednesdays. Times are listed online along with dates for each session. The first session starts June 15th and the cost is \$32R/\$40NR. Spots are filling up quickly, so register soon.



PeeWee Programs (Ages 3-5)

We have a lot of pee wee programs going on this summer. Some of our programs include; instructional baseball, instructional basketball, instructional soccer, Meet Me at the Park 1-day Camps, Tennis, Creative Kids Art Class, Art Cart, and more!



Volleyball Camps and Clinics

We have one-week camps for K-2nd grade and 3rd-5th grade. For 6th-8th graders we have one-week clinics for hitting, serving, passing and setting. Clinics and camps are on Tuesday-Thursday, June 23rd-June 25th at Stoner Prairie School. Fees and times range, so check online for specifics.



Sport Foundations Training – Level I

This program seeks to provide kids with a fun and stimulating opportunity for physical and psychosocial development. This 7-week program will focus on athletic movement; coordination, agility, strength, power, body control and endurance. Program starts June 15th.

Days/Times - Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30pm-4:45pm

Location - Stoner Prairie Gym

Ages - 6-11 years old

Fee - \$185



Sport Foundations Training – Level 2

This program seeks to provide kids with a fun and stimulating opportunity for physical and psychosocial development. This 7-week program will focus on athletic movement; coordination, agility, strength, power, body control and endurance. Program starts June 19th.

Day/Time - Fridays, 1:00pm-3:00pm

Location - Stoner Prairie Gym

Ages - 11-14 years old

Fee - \$125 (all classes) or \$25 (day pass)

Kids Enrichment Classes

What is etiquette and why is it important? These classes will teach your kids party etiquette, communication skills, manners, and how to take on new responsibilities.

Days/Times - Varying

Location - Fitchburg Community Center

Ages - 6-12 years old

Fee - \$15

Playground Programs

Come join other youngsters in group games, crafts, sports and other fun activities. Program runs one day a week from the 1st week of June to the last week of July.

Days/Times - McKee (Wednesdays, (9:30-11:30am) – Tower (Fridays, (9:30-11:30am)

Location - McKee Farms Park and Tower Hill Park

Ages - 4-6 years old

Fee - \$20R/\$25NR



Burn Fitness

Do you want to get into the best shape of your life? If so, check out this intense training workout which incorporates the best elements of CrossFit, Tabata, HIIT, and functional strength training. During class you will utilize kettle bells, heavy ropes, medicine balls and more. Check online for dates, days, times and fees.



SAVE THE DATE! 2015 BIKE RODEO

Saturday, May 23rd, 10am-12pm
Hatchery Hill Town Center, 3000 Cahill Main
(Parking Lots near COPPS Food Market)



FITCHBURG ARBOR DAY MIGRATORY BIRD DAY CELEBRATION

May 2, 2015, 8:30am-2:30pm
McKee Farms Park

The City will again be holding a joint celebration of Arbor Day & International Migratory Bird Day to bring attention to the importance



of trees and birds in our community. This will be a morning packed with fun and educational activities for all ages, including a tree planting event, birding for all, building bird feeders and refreshments. Last year's live raptor program put on by REGI was a big hit and we'll be bringing these feathered educators back.

BRUSH AND YARD WASTE COLLECTION BEGINS APRIL 13TH

Allowable Options For Curbside Placement of Yard Waste



Residents participating in the City's Solid Waste Collection Contract receive fourteen curbside brush collections and four yard waste collections between April and November. Paper copies of the collection schedule were included in the December 2014 Fitchburg Star and are available at City Hall or at: www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste.

Yard waste includes leaves and grass clippings, twigs less than 3/4-inch diameter (thumb-size), as well as non-woody garden material, such as flowers, weeds, and garden waste.

Yard waste must be placed in a reusable container or bag no larger than 50 gallons or 50 lbs and at the curb by 6:30am Monday morning of the collection week, regardless of which day your refuse and recyclables are collected. Yard waste should be placed on your driveway or terrace, and not in the street.

A photo is included above providing the greenest (#1) to least green (#4), but still acceptable, curbside yard waste set out options:

1 – No yard waste set out - resident mulches into the lawn or composts on site, reduces labor and transportation costs and emissions

2a – Reused plastic cart or container, reusable hundreds of times

2b – Reusable ~50 gallon polybag w/ drawstring (~\$3-6/polybag)

2c – Reusable ~50 gallon polybag w/ handles and drawcord (~\$8-10/polybag)

3a – Compostable ~30 gallon paper bag w/ folded top (~\$0.50-1/bag)

3b – Compostable ~50 gallon plastic-like bag (\$0.60-1.20/bag)

3c – Compostable ~30 gallon plastic-like bag (\$0.60-1.20/bag)

4 – Non-recyclable ~30 gallon black plastic bag – MUST be left untied* (\$0.10-0.50/bag)

*Please note that Non-compostable bags must not be tied to allow for emptying yard waste without ripping the bag open. Residents are encouraged to leave a container (with note: "Please place bags in here after emptying.") for Pellitteri to place the bags in after they are emptied so the bags can be reused again and not sent to the landfill.

All residents may also take yard waste to the City's Recycling Drop Off Site, located at 2373 S. Fish Hatchery Road. The site is open every day during daylight hours.

Brush collected curbside includes branches greater than thumb size (3/4" diameter), less than 6" diameter, and cut to lengths of 5' or less. Brush should be placed on your driveway or terrace, and not in the street.

Please have yard waste and/or brush at the curb by 6:30 a.m. Monday on the week of collection, regardless of which day your refuse and recyclables are collected. Visit www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste for full guidelines or contact Public Works at publicworks@fitchburgwi.gov or 270-4260 if you have any questions.

It's your paper, too

The Fitchburg Star accepts submissions of photos, events, charity work and other local news. To submit an item for consideration, e-mail fitchburgstar@wcinet.com, visit our website at ConnectFitchburg.com or call 845-9559.

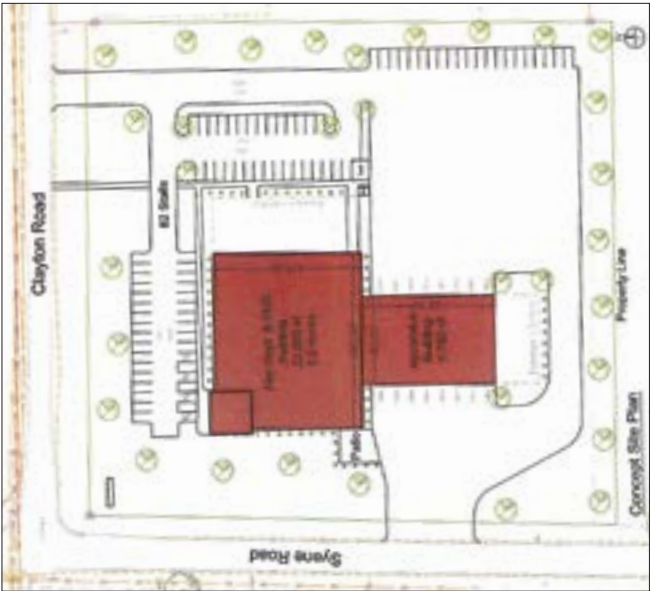


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Map courtesy Vanta Commercial Properties

A concept site plan shows how a fire station could fit on the five-acre parcel purchased by the city last month. The city agreed to spend \$495,000 to purchase the site in March, with an option to explore purchasing another two acres.

City approves \$495,000 for northeast fire station land

The City of Fitchburg will spend nearly half a million dollars to buy land for the new northeast fire station.

The city agreed last month to spend \$495,000 plus closing costs to purchase five acres from Vanta Commercial Properties along the southeast corner of Syene and Clayton roads.

The property will become the site of the city's main fire station, while another northwest station is being built in the Fitchburg Business Park.

The northwest station lot was purchased in August 2014 for \$592,000.

The city plans to spend about \$11.6 million on construction for the two stations, according to city documents. A total of \$1.9 million was planned for land acquisition, design and engineering.

The Fire Station Oversight Committee's recommended plan calls for construction of the northwest station this year. The department could occupy that station as soon as late 2015 or early 2016, according to the plan.

At the same time, the larger northeast station – which will house the administrative offices – would be built in 2016 and 2017, with the department moving in late 2017.

As part of the agreement for the northeast land purchase, the city and other nearby properties will share in the cost of extending utility connections to the area once the area has been platted.

Negotiations are still underway for securing an additional two acres for future expansion. Vanta had offered roughly \$805,000 for the seven acre site, according to city documents. The land is more marketable to other users if the city only uses five acres, the company said.

– Mark Ignatowski



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Thursday, April 16

4pm–7pm

Fitchburg Community Center
5510 Lacy Road, Fitchburg

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adno=402187-01

Maintenance Mechanic- 2nd Shift (Monday-Thursday)

Are you a maintenance professional who thrives on working in a highly-automated manufacturing environment utilizing state of the art equipment (lasers, robotics, AGVs, vision systems) in a modern air conditioned facility, with company paid training to keep your skills current?

Do you value a company that makes safety a part of their culture, not just another graph on the wall?

Do you believe in a maintenance program that values predicting and preventing maintenance issues as much as troubleshooting and repairs? Would you enjoy a second shift Monday through Thursday (2pm-12am) schedule with paid breaks?

If so, Sub-Zero, Inc. may have the perfect opportunity for you. We are looking for maintenance professionals with the following experience and knowledge to work in our Fitchburg Built-In Refrigeration facility:

- Associates degree in Industrial Maintenance or 3 - 5 years of equivalent manufacturing maintenance experience.
- Knowledge of and ability to interface and troubleshoot with a variety of PLC's including Allen Bradley PLC's, 500, 5000, Flex Drives.
- Experience with manufacturing enterprise systems (MES).
- Strong understanding of OSHA principles.
- Experience with CMMS programs (MAXIMO preferred).
- Microsoft Office Suite programs (Word, Excel, Outlook).

To apply, visit the Career Page of our website at www.subzero-wolf.com.

Successful Candidates may be eligible for a sign on bonus of up to \$1500! Apply today for immediate consideration.



adno=400805-01

City completes switch to new pay plan

Low gas prices enable \$107k raise among 41 employees

JACOB BIELANSKI
Unified Newspaper Group

An unexpected drop in gas prices have allowed the city to fully realize a new pay structure that places employees on a merit-based “step” system.

The initial 2015 budget, which went into effect Jan. 1, incorporated the new pay plan, but was not fully funded. On March 24, the Common Council voted to move funds to cover the full \$107,199 cost, which directly affects 41 employees.

Fitchburg city administrator Tony Roach said the initial delay was related to levy limits and the state’s expenditure restraint program, which rewards cities for keeping expenses from

rising sharply. Roach said compliance with expenditure restraint amounts to roughly half a million dollars to the city.

“With the (initial) 2015 budget, we were only able to place people in the new grade at the closest step to their current pay,” Roach said. “What we were hoping to do was to place employees at the grade that represented their years of service ... so if they’ve been here for five years, they should be at step five.”

The initial budget for fuel was calculated under an estimated gas price of \$4 per gallon for unleaded and \$4.25 for diesel. After a major drop in gas prices, the U.S. Energy Information Administration updated those estimates to \$2.33 and \$2.85, respectively.

The city consumes over 80,000 gallons of fuel a year.

Roach recommended the vote to the council, moving

the excess money from the fuel budget to the personnel budget.

The Senior Center received just over \$27,000 to bring five employees in line with the new pay scale. The Police Department, meanwhile, brought the highest number of employees in line with the new plan – a total of seven employees at a cost of just under \$20,000.

Under the new system, employees were brought in line with a new six-step matrix. Base salaries are determined according to a fair market formula, with the sixth step representing 100 percent of that base salary.

Employees receive the step raises annually, assuming they meet certain milestones. After the sixth step, wage increases are awarded based on a merit system, up to 125 percent of the base salary.

The plan also calls for supervisors to be placed

in a pay grade that represents at least a 10 percent increase over highest paid immediate subordinate.

“These types of pay plans are becoming more and more common since Act 10,” Roach said, referring to the 2011 state law that effectively ended public employee unions, other than police and fire.

Members of the local Teamsters union were also brought in line with the new pay plan, even though their wages are settled in a separate contract. Roach said that the Teamsters have little latitude to negotiate beyond increases in the consumer price index, and that no real negotiation was necessary.

“We don’t even sit down at the table any more; we just send their representative a letter saying ‘here’s where we’re at,’” Roach said. “(After Act 10), we went from ... about a 30-page contract to a one-page document.”

Survey indicates most satisfied with city’s trees

Majority of respondents support higher taxes to fund maintenance

On the web

View the Urban Forestry survey results:

bit.ly/1FiVvlu

A City of Fitchburg Urban Forestry survey found a majority think the city’s trees are adequately cared for.

The survey, which was open in January and February to all city residents, received 534 responses among all city residents. That represents about two percent of the city’s population. The results will be presented at a public meeting this spring to gather additional input from the public.

A majority of respondents indicated they would support more city involvement in maintaining and preserving trees, including higher property taxes and more regulation for developers.

Of the 398 respondents who answered the question, “How strongly would you support or oppose tree removal regulations during property development?” 75 percent said they would “Strongly support” or “support” such regulations.

Ninety percent of the 403

respondents who responded to another question about regulations requiring some preservation and some new planting of trees on properties being developed supported or strongly supported that idea.

Of the 404 respondents who answered a question about paying more in property taxes to maintain and protect trees, 67 percent supported the idea.

The survey also floated the idea of a monetary incentive for planting trees on private property. Sixty-one percent of the 409 who answered the question said they would plant trees. Another 25 percent said they needed more information.

The survey also found the number of trees and the care for trees was “enough,” according to a majority of question respondents.

To see results to the rest of questions, visit bit.ly/1FiVvlu.

– Scott Girard

Fitchburg residents can win free smoke detector

City of Fitchburg residents may be eligible to get a free smoke detector installed in their home.

The Fitchburg Fire Department recently was awarded a grant from Kidde consisting of Kidde smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, according to a news release from the city.

“The detectors will be installed later this year into homes of older adults whom live in Fitchburg,” the release read. “The Fitchburg Senior Center has teamed up with the fire department to reach out to seniors who are in need of a

How to enter

Qualified applicants for the smoke detector giveaway can enter by calling 270-4290 or stopping by the Fitchburg Senior Center.

detector.”

In order to qualify to receive a free smoke and carbon monoxide detector and have it installed, people need to meet the following conditions. The homeowner

must:

- Reside in the city of Fitchburg
- Live in the house where detector will be installed
- Share your name, address and phone number with the Senior Center
- Have entered into the drawing by May 1, 2015
- Submit only one entry per address

Entries may be submitted through May 1 by calling the Fitchburg Senior Center at 270-4290 or stopping by and filling out an entry form.

On May 4, 30 individuals that entered into the

drawing will be randomly selected. At that time, the Fitchburg Fire Department will contact those that have been selected to set up an appointment to have the detectors installed in their homes in June.

While installing the detectors, the firefighters will also conduct a home safety inspection where recommendations will be made to prevent injuries and fires in the home.

Contact firefighter Adam Dorn at adam.dorn@fitchburgwi.gov or by phone at 608-275-7150 with questions about this program.

City launches smartphone app for on-the-go news and info

The City of Fitchburg recently launched a smartphone app – FitchburgWI – to access city news and information on the go.

This app provides smartphone-owning citizens easy access to city news, events and announcements, meeting information, and the city’s Facebook and Twitter sites. There is also a way to sign up for notifications and emergency alerts, library information, rec programs and access the staff directory.

The app even offers citizens a way to report a concern by submitting a photo and using a map feature.

The app is free and

available for download for Android mobile devices (the app will be available for iPhone users soon). To download the FitchburgWI app on your Android smartphone, visit

the Google Play store.

The app was released Feb. 24 and is designed by CivicPlus, the Manhattan, Kan.-based company that was hired in 2013 to redesign the city’s website.

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Groundskeeper

The Verona Area School District is looking for a dedicated, hard-working Groundskeeper. This full-time, varied work schedule position is responsible for preparing, maintaining and layout indoor and outdoor athletic areas, performing maintenance of plants, grass, trees and shrubs and performing snow removal. Prior experience as a groundskeeper or other heavy work is desired. Ability to operate a variety of equipment from string trimmers to large trucks, tractors and mowers required. The starting salary is \$17.19 per hour plus exceptional fringe benefits, including health, dental, vacation, sick leave and pension contributions.

How to Apply: Complete the WECAN online application at www.verona.k12.wi.us, and attach resume and any certifications/credentials to your application. **Deadline:** Open until filled.



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An Equal Opportunity Educator/Employer
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adno=403138-01

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Holocaust: Fitchburg man writing about father's role in liberation of Nazi death factories

Continued from page 1

and many of you would retch (just like the people of Weimar did)."

Michael's research is much more than the 400 pages of mostly typewritten letters Al sent to his family. There is also Michael's own annotated research, using official sources, testimonials from those who knew Al and email correspondence with archivist historians living in Europe today.

It paints a different picture of the man with whom Michael grew up.

"I am, of course, proud and admiring of my father's service, now that I know much about it." Michael Liethen told the Star. "Better the words of others. In a letter to my mother in late August 1945, my father's second officer wrote from a military hospital in Galesburg, Ill.: 'It will be a pleasure for me to give you more details about your hubby who was really the best commanding officer any soldier could have wished to have.'

"Similar views were expressed in my interviews of two men who served in my father's command, and another who served in the XX Corps' other Interrogation Prisoner of War (IPW) team."

The Letters Project

Michael Liethen was born in Appleton in 1944, the year of D-Day, the invasion of Normandy that saw more than 9,000 Allied troops killed or wounded. He lives in northwest Fitchburg today.

Al Liethen said in one letter he would offer more details when he returned home. Like many veterans, though, he came home and the topic of his service almost never came up.

"World War II veterans were not talking about what happened during their service when they returned home," said Michael, who now believes his father suffered from PTSD. "Many could not bear the emotional costs associated with what they saw and experienced."

So Michael never learned what Al did in the war until he began to read his father's letters and later researched the subject. And it wasn't until almost 40 years after he died that his son organized them all, organizing facts of his father's service as more letters were located.

He feels his book will bring a scholarly contribution to the growing literature on the Holocaust and World War II. He authored annotations of the two concentration-camp letters, completed in 2010, and digitized the collected letters, donating them with his brother, Phillip, to the Wisconsin State Historical Society Archives in Madison.

Liethen's organization of the letters and many photos shot by Al in Europe are systematized in archival quality, and his upcoming book is structured around the Allied military campaigns in the European Theater.

"I researched the history like a lawyer establishing a case," Liethen said of chronicling his father's service. "When I annotated the letters, the details need three information vectors



Photo courtesy National Archives and Records Administration, College Park

Survivors of the Ohrdruf, (Thuringia) Germany satellite camp of the extermination factory, Buchenwald, demonstrate torture methods used in the camp to top-ranking American generals on April 12, 1945. From left are generals George S. Patton (Third Army), Omar Bradley (12th Army Group), Troy Middleton (VIII Corps, Third Army), Walton H. "Bulldog" Walker (XX Corps, Third Army), and Dwight D. Eisenhower (Supreme Allied Commander). Wisconsin's Al Liethen, of U.S. military intelligence and chief interpreter, is next to Ike, pointing with his left hand. On the far right is Jules Grad, correspondent for Stars and Stripes. This photo is on display at the United States Holocaust Museum.

of support to be recognized as facts. There are a lot of careless historical treatments out there."

He also had to "decode" his father's letters because he often "could not say exactly what was going on" for security reasons.

"I read the letters to see the context," Michael explained. "My research has been establishing the context."

Al Liethen's letters are well-crafted, but the incensed prose is anything but dispassionate in describing first-hand the victims and the nature of the Nazi perpetrators.

Alone, the 400 pages of letters are a contribution to history, and they include a first-person view by a trained intelligence officer who served as the interpreter to Gen. Eisenhower during Ike's sole inspection tour of Buchenwald, the first U.S.-liberated Nazi extermination complex. Other death camps had been liberated earlier by advancing Soviet troops in 1945.

The book will end "on October 15, 1945 when he comes home," Liethen said.

'Gruesome' discovery

Al Liethen entered the European Theater in England on May 19, 1944.

On June 5, 1944, Liethen's Interrogation Prisoner of War (POW) team was attached to the General Staff-Intelligence section of the XX Corps attached to the U.S. Third Army in Europe, notes Michael Liethen's annotations to the same letter where Al spoke of his reprimand from Gen. Patton.

Al spends part of that letter describing the "gruesome" horror of Buchenwald to his family.

But he first explains the feeling of being a tour guide for some of the highest-ranking generals in the Armed Forces after spending an entire day looking over the camp and delivering reports to his superiors.

"Yesterday I had the honor of being the interpreter for such honorable gentlemen as Gen. Eisenhower, Gen. Bradley, Gen. Patton and several other lesser general officers," he wrote. "Since I had made the investigation with some of the men who had escaped from the place the day that we captured it I was more or less the conductor of the tour for this famous party. There were batteries of cameras that took pictures of us as we went about the whole place and as I made several demonstrations for them - hell I felt like (actress Greta) Garbo getting off(f) a train to Chicago."

He then describes the remains of the camp, which had been evacuated two weeks earlier amid attempts to destroy the evidence of the mass killings prior to the hasty Nazi exit.

"All the healthy ones were marched away in the night, and those who were sick were loaded on trucks and wagons, and then when there was no more transportation available the remainder - about 35 were shot as they lay there waiting for something to come to take them away," he writes, adding that "about 40 more" dead were in another building.

That was just the beginning.

"About two kilometers from the enclosure was the 'pit' where the (G)ermans had buried 3,200 since December, when this camp opened," he wrote. "About three weeks ago the commandant of the camp was ordered to destroy all of the evidence of the mass killings in this place and he sent several hundred of these inmates out on the detail to exhume these bodies and have them burned. However, there wasn't time enough to burn all of the 3,200 and only 1,606 were actually burned and the balance were still buried under a light film of dirt."

Liethen then promises his

entire report in the letter and to the generals is backed up with photos and only a piece of what he's seen.

"I've had a hard enough time trying to get to sleep at night without the aid of liquor much less wanting to take the time to go into details," he writes.

He also gets frustrated with the response of locals who claimed to be ignorant of the entire operation.

"(Patton) ordered that not less than 1,000 people of the city of Weimar between the ages of 18 and 45 be shown this place," he wrote. "I'll be damned if they didn't try to tell us that they didn't know that such things went on out there - less than 5 miles from their city."

"That has been the case with these damned krauts, they were suckers for propaganda, they are bastards at heart, and they think they can get us to believe that they were forced into the party, well, take it from me, I trust no one over here - each one is a Goebbels to me."

Liethen's letter offers high praise for the general who came to symbolize for many the charge through Europe of the Allied forces.

"Of course you have all heard of Patton, well, you can take it from me, I work for him, and I spent considerable time with him on that afternoon and he may be a bit curt - but then I still think that he is a general who will never be equaled - I know I have interrogated dozens of kraut generals, and they all have a holy fear of him and his army, they surely have reason to do so, too," he writes.

Chronicle of service

As part of the project, Michael developed a chronology of his father's service.

Al Liethen was stationed as a lieutenant after enlisting in the Army in November 1942 and completing the rigorous Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Camp Davis, North Carolina. He



Photo courtesy Felice Grad/U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

An Austrian-Jewish survivor, right, talks with high-ranking US Army officers in the newly liberated Ohrdruf concentration camp on April 12, 1945. Among those pictured, from left, are General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Jules Grad, correspondent for the Stars and Stripes, Al Liethen, of Military Intelligence, and General George Patton.

'I know that there are a lot of people who will still brand this information as propaganda but one thing that I will be able to use is the fact that I have first hand pictures of these things and no doubt there will be more later on.'

Al Liethen, written in a letter dated April 13, 1945 to his family about Ohrdruf and Buchenwald camps

had obtained a degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and became a linguist with an academic, non-native capacity of the German language, part of the reason the Army was grooming Liethen for work in intelligence.

Liethen was a student officer at the top-secret Camp Ritchie Military Intelligence Training Center from January through March 1944 before his overseas shipment in May 1944. Some 19,000 known servicemen went through military intelligence training at Camp Ritchie.

Many of them, other research has revealed, formed an Army unit called the Ritchie Boys, comprising Jewish emigres (mostly intellectuals and artists) who had fled the rise of Hitler in the 1930s. Their mission included psychological warfare blending into Germany and occupied Europe with their native understanding of its geography, language and culture.

Al Liethen wasn't one of the Ritchie Boys, but he used his intelligence training to be involved in an important part of the war.

The photo of Al at the Ohrdruf (Thuringia), Germany satellite camp of Buchenwald - featuring survivors showing torture methods for top-ranking American generals with Al Liethen of military intelligence, pointing as the interpreter in the shot for Gens. Eisenhower, Patton, Bradley, and others - became one of the most widely distributed liberation images of World War II.

And that discovery was part of an emotional end to the war, and revelation of the evil of the Nazi enterprise.

Victory in Europe Day May 8, 1945, VE Day, was just 22 days away when the famous war correspondent, Edward R. Murrow, began his angriest broadcast on April 16, 1945, on a Monday, three days after Murrow's

arrival to Buchenwald.

"Permit me to tell you what you would have seen and heard had you been with me on Thursday. It will not be pleasant listening. If you are at lunch or you have no appetite to hear what Germans have done, now is a good time to switch off the radio. For I propose to tell you about Buchenwald. It is on a small hill about four miles outside Weimar, and it was one of the largest concentration camps in Germany and it was built to last."

Norman Cohn, who served in the Intelligence Corps during World War II and was an author of vital work on the Holocaust and tyrannous systems, wrote of the totalitarian phenomenon as "the urge to purify the world through the annihilation of some category of human beings imagined as agents of corruption and incarnations of evil."

From April 12-19, the Holocaust Museum will lead the United States in observing Days of Remembrance, which runs from the Sunday before Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) through the following Sunday. The museum has a statement on its website preparing for the commemoration of the liberation:

"For those who witnessed first-hand the evidence of Nazi crimes at the camps, seeing was believing. Yet they had to contend with a skeptical public that balked at fully accepting stories of Nazi mass murder. Ben Hibbs, the editor of the popular Saturday Evening Post, indicated that even after his visits to Buchenwald and Dachau and the wide publicity given to the liberation of the Nazi camps, 'many people' asked 'if the concentration camps were as bad as the newspapers have been saying.' To this, Hibbs responded they were 'worse.'"

Al Liethen (1908-1961) bore witness.



Ask the Fitchburg PROFESSIONAL



Kathleen C. Aiken

MORTGAGE BANKING

Q. What is LTV and why does it matter?

A. LTV stands for loan-to value. It is the total amount of liens on the property divided by its fair market value. If the subject property is a purchase transaction, fair market value will be based on the lower of purchase price or estimated market value as established by the appraisal.



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adno=401721-01



Stephen Rudolph FACHE, CSA

SENIOR CARE

Q. What can family caregivers do to reduce stress?

A. Many families find satisfaction in caregiving for an elderly loved one, whether a parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle, or family friend. The experience of caregiving often strengthens the bond between adult child and parent. In many ways it's a rewarding opportunity to give back. However, caregiving for an elder can add stress to an already busy schedule of work, taking care of your own family and other obligations.

Assuring the safety and well-being of a loved one can require substantial amounts of time, consuming your thoughts and attention when you're not with your loved one. Without help from other family members, or a professional elder care provider, it can drain you physically, mentally and emotionally. As a result it can put a caregiver's own health and well-being at risk. Respite care--temporary elder caregiving provided by a professional, relative or friend--provides an elder's primary caregiver a valuable release and opportunity to rest and reenergize, as well as take care of other pressing concerns on the to-do list.

Respite care can be scheduled occasionally or on a regular basis, for a few hours or while you're on vacation. This will give you a chance to rest up, go out with friends, shop, exercise, or get away on that well deserved vacation.



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adno=401718-01



Kristin Kellerman Investment Advisor

FINANCIAL

Important Birthdays. Understanding key birthdays may help you better prepare for certain retirement income and benefits. But more importantly, knowing key birthdays can help you avoid penalties that may be imposed if you miss the date.

Age 50: Employees in certain qualified retirement plans are able to begin making annual catch-up contributions of \$6000 in addition to their normal contributions. **Age 59½:** Employees are able to start making withdrawals from qualified retirement plans without a 10% federal income-tax penalty. **Age 62:** You are first able to draw Social Security retirement benefits, but if you continue to work, those benefits may be reduced. **Age 65:** Individuals can qualify for Medicare. Health care costs are a big part of a retiree's budget. **Age 65 to 67:** Between ages 65 and 67, individuals become eligible to receive 100% of their Social Security benefit. The age varies, depending on your birth year. **Age 70½:** Participant must begin taking required minimum distributions (RMDs) from traditional IRAs and qualified retirement plans, such as 401(k), 403(b), and 457 plans. This is just a quick summary of the important birthdays. For more details, call me at 608-442-5637. Sources: IRS.gov and ssa.gov

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adno=401723-01



Barb Dawson

REAL ESTATE

Q. We are thinking of selling our home and want to make some improvements to enhance its value. What should we do without spending loads of money?

A. This is the question I am asked more than any other by my clients when we list their home. While each case is different, a coat of fresh paint, cleaning the carpet (or new carpet if it is worn or out of style), and even new countertops if they are outdated. Because it's winter time, you can't really spruce up the landscaping but you can make certain the driveway and sidewalks are clear of snow and that the property looks neat and clean. Remember to stay neutral with colors in all your updates. Give me a call, I would be happy to help you get your home ready to list.



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Serving Home Buyers & Sellers!

adno=401722-01



Ryan Wagner, Resident Care Director

ASSISTED LIVING AND MEMORY CARE

Q. When is it important to take care of yourself?

A. As the caregiver of a person who has dementia, you must first take care of yourself. If you become too tired and frustrated, you will be less able to help your family member. If you need a break there are many things you can do to relieve the stress. It is also important to look at future options and do your research. It's normal to feel uneasy about the process of searching for a home for your loved one. But if you start the process and have future plans put in place, you will feel better about the situation when it arrives. Families can also try the following:

- Ask for help from relatives, friends and local community organizations.
- Look for caregiver support groups. Other people who are dealing with the same problems may have some good ideas about how you can cope better and how to make caregiving easier.
- Consider respite care. Respite care is short-term care that is given to a person who has dementia in order to provide relief for the caregiver. Respite care may be available from your local senior citizens' group or a social services agency.
- Consider adult day care centers. They can give your family member a consistent environment and a chance to socialize.



If you have a question about assisted living, memory care or dementia, feel free to contact Ryan Wagner, Resident Care Director at Sylvan Crossings Assisted Living and Memory Care of Fitchburg.

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608-274-1111

adno=401725-01



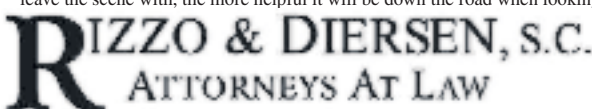
Gail C. Groy Attorney at Law

ATTORNEY

Q. What Can I do after a motor vehicle accident to get a fair settlement?

Motor Vehicle Accidents - Protecting Your Rights to a Fair Settlement

A. After you have been in a motor vehicle accident you may be wondering what steps you should take to reach a fair settlement. Always make sure to call the police to ensure that there is a police report on file. When the police officer arrives make sure to speak to him/her and relate your version of events. This will come in handy at a later date if the other involved party denies liability. Next, take photos! Take photos of your own vehicle and all other vehicles involved in the collision. These photos will aid you to produce as evidence and may help show the other driver's negligence. It is important that even if you do not believe yourself to be injured, to call an ambulance to the scene. In this way there will be a record of treatment if your injuries manifest themselves at a later date. Take down the other driver's info including: name, address, insurance information along with contact info of anyone else who witness the accident. Lastly, make sure to document any bruises, injuries and your feelings that show up in the days following the incident. Remember, the more information you leave the scene with, the more helpful it will be down the road when looking for a fair settlement.



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adno=401697-01



Jill Unwin, D.C., C.C.E.P.



Lee Unwin, LMT

CHIROPRACTOR

Q: Can I receive massage therapy while under chiropractic care?

A: You should always consult your chiropractor before you begin another treatment or therapy and it is important that you, your chiropractor, and massage therapist are all working in unison. The benefit of combining the two makes your adjustments easier and last longer because the muscles around the joint have greater circulation and are more relaxed. This allows you to restore and maintain your health more quickly, effectively, and completely.

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If you would like to join our Ask a Professional page, contact Donna Larson at 608-845-9559 to find out how!

adno=389512-01



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In brief

KL Engineering earns client satisfaction award

Fitchburg firm KL Engineering earned a client satisfaction award last month. PSMJ Resources, Inc., a management consulting firm honoring architecture/engineering/construction firms, recognized companies that provide their clients with top quality communications, impressive performance and cost effective solutions. KL Engineering was one of 20 firms nationally to receive this award. “Our goal is to improve the quality of the work we provide our clients,” says Kim M. Lobdell, PE, President of KL Engineering. “We pride ourselves on offering an unwavering customer service ethic and are pleased to be recognized for our efforts.”

Winners were selected based on both the quality of feedback received and the quantity of replies.

Supreme Structures wins commercial design award

Supreme Structures was recognized last month as a winner of Madison’s 2015 Commercial Design Awards. The design firm – located on Marketplace Drive – was recognized for the “Best Office Renovation” for their completed project with ZEBRADO, a design firm located on Williamson Street on Madison’s east side. The awards ceremony on April 2 honored the best in commercial architecture and design throughout the state of Wisconsin.

Yahara Bay Distillers nominated for business award

Yahara Bay Distillers Inc. has been nominated for the Wisconsin Family Business of the Year Award. This award celebrates the accomplishments and the impact that family-owned businesses have on local communities. Each nomination has been reviewed in-depth by a panel of judges composed of independent business leaders. The judges consider the family business’ contribution to its community and industry, its positive links between family and business, and innovative practices it may use, among other things.

An awards ceremony will take place May 14, at the New Edgewater Hotel in Madison.

Submit an item

The Fitchburg Star is always looking for business news items. Submit story ideas, news releases and photos to the Star by emailing unbusiness@wcinet.com or visiting ConnectFitchburg.com and submitting an item. Contact reporters Scott Girard and Mark Ignatowski with questions at 845-9559.



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adno=380411-01

Realtime Utility Engineers relocates from west Madison

Fitchburg location enables explosive growth for company

JACOB BIELANSKI
Unified Newspaper Group

A national engineering firm recently moved its headquarters in January from its home on Madison's west side to a site in Fitchburg.

The new location not only comes on the end of Realtime Utility Engineer's 10-year lease, but also facilitates the company's upcoming plans for growth, the company's president and original co-founder Robert Strycharske said.

"I thought that we would end up at eventually \$5 million dollars with maybe 30 to 50 people," Strycharske



Strycharske



Photo by Jacob Bielanski

Realtime Utility Engineers began leasing this building on Marketplace Drive in January. The new building offers the potential for both short- and long-term growth for the company.

said. "Right now, with our last hires, we're at 110 (employees) ... I envision us being at 200 employees in the next five years or so."

Strycharske said the current facility, at 2908

Marketplace Drive, will allow the company to grow by at least one-third in the short term, but that the building they just moved to could allow the company to double in size.

The doubling, however, would require the company to lease the full building, while at the moment they lease "a little over half" said the company's director of business development

Travis Meyers.

"It's also allowing us to do a lot more training," Meyers added.

Founded in 1994, Realtime designs components for electrical power grids. These include high-voltage substations and wind power components. The training, Meyers said, is geared towards helping customers better understand the power solutions Realtime develops.

Meyers said federal regulations have shut down many coal-fueled power plants across the country, creating a need for smarter power distribution systems. This need is fueling Realtime's growth, Meyers said.

The Fitchburg location serves as the company headquarters, employing mostly electrical and civil engineers, over half of which are certified. Realtime also maintains an office near Boston and is considering opening up another facility at an as-yet-undetermined location, Strycharske said.

Strycharske briefly lamented the businesses climate in the City of Madison. He points to the Madison City Council's 2006 consideration of an ordinance mandating sick leave for employees working at least half-time at companies that employ ten or more people.

"I love the city of Madison, but I don't want the city council telling me how many sick days to give my employees," Strycharske said. "We do better than that anyway, but just the concept of that was frustrating; we're a small business, we have to be flexible to grow quickly, to adapt quickly."

The Fitchburg site was chosen over other suitable locations on Madison's west side and in Monona, Strycharske said. He said the company's needs did not leave many options. Though the City of Fitchburg did not offer any incentives, he said the company "didn't really reach out to them."



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